

# **CIVIL SOCIETY IN NIGERIA: CONTRIBUTING TO POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGE**



## **CIVICUS CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX: NIGERIA**

Abuja, September 2007

ActionAid Nigeria

Development Information Network (DevNet)

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

## Foreword

Action Aid Nigeria, an associate of Action Aid International, was established in 1999 and contributes to building the capacity of civil society in Nigeria. Action Aid also focuses on fostering and building partnerships between civil society, and the government and the private sector. Its primary focus is on the fight against poverty and it works closely with poor and marginalised communities. Thematically, it examines issues related to: women and girls gaining power to secure their rights; citizens and civil society fighting for rights and justice; accountability and democratic practice by the state. Such collaboration is absolutely fundamental at the local and international level, as it maximises efforts to eradicate poverty and injustice, while complementing the efforts of others. Partners implement many of our programmes, using their deep knowledge of local conditions, customs and politics that we could not hope to match. The Civil Society Index (CSI) project is therefore crucial to our work, as it provides an extensive knowledge base about the state of civil society in Nigeria.

The Development Information Network (DevNet) is a coalition of over 100 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that utilise and disseminate development information. It was formed in 1994, under the auspices of the British Council following a series of consultations with development workers, librarians, and NGO practitioners in the West African region. Its membership is open to those who have access to information and documents in the private sector, government agencies, parastatals, NGOs, and international organisations whose activities focus on issues of development. Its vision is to create a dependable and valuable development information resource centre, serving the development needs of civil society organisations (CSOs) in Nigeria and the West African region. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of Nigerians through efficient information management and capacity-building that will hopefully enhance the effectiveness of CSOs in the development sector.

The UNDP (United Nation Development Programme) is the UN's global development network, an organisation advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working with the latter on their own solution to global and national development challenges. As the countries develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and the latter's wide range of partners. UNDP is charged with helping to cut poverty in half by 2015 as pledged by world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September, 2000. Its focus is on providing developing countries with knowledge-based consulting services and building national, regional and global coalitions for change. UNDP has six priority practice areas:

1. Democratic Governance
2. Poverty Reduction
3. Crisis Prevention and Recovery
4. Energy and Environment
5. Information and Communications Technology
6. HIV/AIDS

In addition, UNDP promotes South-South cooperation and the empowerment of women. UNDP took over the funding CSI in Nigeria in January, 2007.

In 2005, both ActionAid and DevNet independently applied to implement the Civil Society Index in Nigeria and subsequently decided to collectively undertake the project. The main objective of the CSI is to assess the state of civil society in Nigeria in order to enhance the

strength and sustainability of civil society and to strengthen civil society's contribution to positive social change. An important outcome of the CSI process was generating and sharing useful and relevant knowledge on the state of civil society as well as increasing the capacity and commitment of civil society stakeholders towards the strengthening of civil society.

The CSI is one of the first initiatives that attempts to collectively assess and learn about the civil society sector on a global level. Both the process and outcomes of the CSI are unique and its methodology follows the sequence below:

1. **Assessment** – using a mix of innovative participatory methods and data sources, the state of civil society was assessed in the following dimensions:

- **Structure:** This dimension looks at the actors within the civil society arena, their main characteristics and the relationship among them;
- **Environment:** This dimension reflects on how enabling the external environment is for civil society. It assesses political, constitutional, social, economic, cultural and legal factors as well as attitudes and behaviour of state and private sector actors towards civil society;
- **Values:** This dimension is concerned with the principles and values adhered to, practiced, and promoted by civil society;
- **Impact:** This measures the impact of civil society activities. It therefore adopts a broad notion of impact, which refers not only to the end result, but the process of engagement of civil society.

2. **Collective Reflection** – structured dialogue among diverse civil society stakeholders provided thought-provoking opportunities to identify civil society's specific strengths and weaknesses.

3. **Joint Action** – the actors involved in this participatory and consultative process have also helped to develop and implement a concrete action agenda that will strengthen civil society.

Indeed, it is this link between assessment and action that is unique to the CSI project; the CSI does not solely produce a knowledge base for the sake of research, but rather it is created to enhance the effectiveness of citizen groups. The CSI is a participatory process that, involves a wide range of stakeholders who collectively own and drive the project. It creates a space for meaningful, inclusive dialogue and, if implemented every few years, civil society is able to assess and analyze its own progress and challenges.

This action research has experienced a range of challenges in Nigeria, resulting in its taking twice as long as it normally should have to reach conclusion. A wide range of stakeholders have been involved in the various stages of this research. The value of the results and its impact on the development of Nigeria and its civil society actors has been the inspiration that has ensured that this study is successfully completed. The results should inform development actors and stakeholders including, and particularly, civil society itself as to the shape of civil society in the country and the need to act to strengthen civil society in its areas of weaknesses, while utilising its strengths to take advantage of opportunities.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Civil Society Index was carried out in Nigeria by ActionAid in partnership with DevNet. A host of other organisations and individuals were also instrumental in the successful implementation of this action-oriented research, such as CIVICUS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation developed the project's approach and methodology and provided training and guidance throughout the project.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the donors. We appreciate CIVICUS for the seed fund to start up the research and the Action-Aid International, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Our special appreciation goes to UNDP for their insight into the value of a study to understand better the shape of civil society in Nigeria and for supporting the completion of the work.

Our gratitude goes to our co-implementers DevNet, and the National Index Team (NIT) comprising the Civil Society Expert, Prof. Samuel Egwu Deputy Convenor, Citizens Forum for Constitutional Reforms (CFCR), the social researchers Dr. Sade Taiwo from Center for Enterprise Development and Action Research (CEDAR), Dr. Joy Ezeilo of Women Aid Collective (WACOL) and Hussaini Abdu (CDRA). This appreciation goes to their team members who supported them in implementing aspects of this work.

In particular, our appreciation goes to the National Advisory Group (NAG) members<sup>1</sup>. In line with the methodology, the National Advisory Group has assisted in implementing the project from the beginning through to the end. Members selflessly shared their expertise, time, and information in order to enrich the project.

We also thank the participants at the National Workshop and the media reviewers led by Emman Ozoemena, the key informants and interviewers, Mr. Bankole Olubamise, Director of DevNet and Ms. Omotayo Abiodun facilitative consultant for the implementation of this project. We regret that we are unable to list all who have in one way or another contributed to this laudable project or are associated with it.

Lastly, our appreciation goes to the CIVICUS Civil Society Index team for their patience, selfless assistance, and support across the period of the implementation of this project. We particularly appreciate the guidance, comments and inputs made by the team into the project. We thank Volkhart Finn Heinrich, Navin Vasudev Andria Hayes Birchler, Carla Suarez, Jacob M. Mati, Beniam Gebrezghi, and a host of other members of the CIVICUS Team.

Ojobo Atuluku  
CSI Nigerian Team

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<sup>1</sup> Please see Appendix 1 for a list of all NAG members

## **DEDICATION**

This report is written in the memory of John Moru, Governance Team Leader, Action Aid, who was the first anchor for the CSI in Nigeria.



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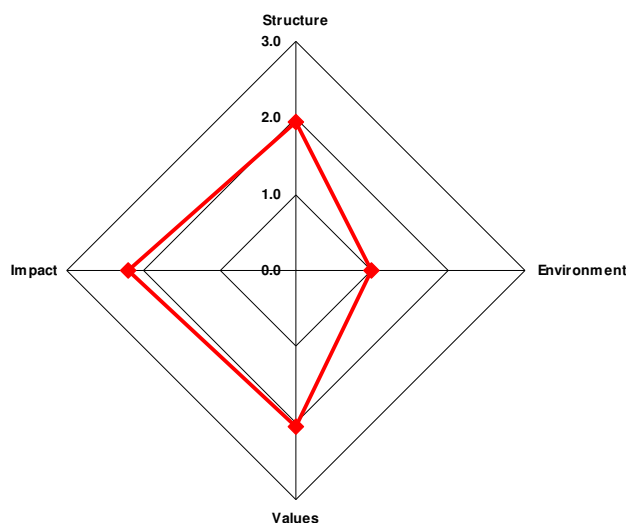
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) project in Nigeria was implemented by Action Aid and DevNet. Over the course of 2005 to 2007, the CSI in Nigeria collected data from a broad range of civil society stakeholders, including citizens, civil society organisations, experts and researchers, using a variety of research methods and tools, including a review of secondary data, Regional Stakeholder Questionnaires and Consultations (RSC), Community Sample Survey (CS), policy case studies, a media review and interviews with key informants. The project utilised a comprehensive framework that included 74 indicators across four dimensions of civil society (structure, environment, values, and impact). These indicators were then “scored” in a jury-base form by the National Advisory Group (NAG), and visually presented in the Civil Society Diamond as in Figure 1.1 below.

**Figure 1.1: Civil Society Diamond NIGERIA**



In essence, the civil society diamond is a visualisation of the state of civil society in Nigeria. The diamond reveals a civil society that is particularly weak in its environment while moderately weak in its structure, values and impact. The structure and environment dimension of civil society are less developed than the values and impact dimensions. While the CSI findings confirmed some of the common perceptions of civil society in Nigeria, it also challenged some of the misconceptions of the sector.

The following general recommendations emerged from the CSI process:

- **Developing a Social Charter:** One way to enhance the legitimacy of CSOs and their overall challenges to governance, democracy and development, is to develop a CSO Social Charter that would identify a Code of Conduct for CSO actors. Given the lack of trust between CSO actors on the one hand, and with state actors on the other, it is imperative that CSOs develop a Social Charter that outlines the main principles and practices of CSOs, including their rules of engagement with both the state and society. This Social Charter must



be binding for all CSOs registered in Nigeria, and should be viewed as a mechanism to regulate CSO activities and projects.

- **Capacity Building:** A key priority for most Nigerian CSOs is to empower ordinary and marginalised citizens. One of the best ways to accomplish this is by building the capacity of local level CSOs and building linkages and connections among community based organisations (CBOs) and grassroots organisations, so that they can begin to work more closely with the state and the private sector. Capacity-building can be advanced by holding training programmes and workshops at the local level, which would, in turn, enhance the capacity to engage the policy process at different levels, including budget tracking. Capacity-building should also be extended to public officials especially among high level government officials, elected officers, and political appointees.
- **Media Advocacy and Campaigns:** There is a great need to include media strategies as an integral part of the work of CSOs. Having a media strategy helps in raising awareness about CSOs' activities, particularly among potential beneficiaries and participants of these activities. It further helps in creating certain perceptions of CSOs which will have to be consistent with the code of conduct and ethics outlined by the Social Charter.
- **Diversity Policy:** Due to the high levels of under-representation of marginalised groups, including women and disabled persons, in the public realm and within CSOs, better advocacy campaigns are needed in these areas to promote policies of diversity and equal opportunity.

Recommendations focusing on CSO partnerships include:

- **CSO Funding:** A major challenge among most CSOs is limited access to funding and restrictions with donor-driven agenda and projects. Overcoming this challenge will require the government and donors to recognise the important role of civil society. For example, Nigeria's donors must realize the strategic role of CSOs in promoting good governance and development. At the same time, the government should establish a National CSOs Trust Fund, in order to provide local funding sources and support. Setting up a CSOs national data bank will be very useful. This will improve the institutional memory and information on CSOs and subsequently make the appropriate disbursements of funds.

Recommendations focusing on state-civil society relationships include:

- **People-Centred Development:** In order to have a more 'people-centred' approach to development practice and philosophy, CSOs need to play a more active role and ensure that the state and the private sector are more accountable to the people. More specifically, this requires a shift from the current neo-liberal economic agenda, which marginalises and disempowers the majority of people, towards a people-centric approach. The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) emphasises a market-led development strategy that encourages the privatisation of state-owned economic ventures, and the reduction of state involvement in the market, at the expense of the well-being and livelihoods of the majority of the population in Nigeria. An important area where the engagement of CSOs is needed is to re-orientate the development process and ensure the participation of all citizens, especially the poor, in the design and implementation of development policies. This would help in redressing market failures and ensure that the voices of marginalised people are included in development programmes. To ensure that this indeed takes place, it would be useful to undertake a major review of past and existing development policies, which would help to identify past mistakes to be avoided in the future.
- **Public Policy:** Closely related to the above is the important role that CSOs play in creating and implementing public policies. Despite the overwhelming evidence of public trust

in CSOs, state actors hardly recognise CSOs as partners in addressing governance and development issues. CSOs need to create stronger advocacy campaigns and build strategic partnerships with government agencies and state actors.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AFRIGOV</b>	<b>African Center for Democratic Governance</b>
<b>ACF</b>	<b>Arewa Consultative Forum</b>
<b>AIT</b>	<b>African Independent Television</b>
<b>ASUU</b>	<b>Academic Staff Union of Universities</b>
<b>CAC</b>	<b>Corporate Affairs Commission</b>
<b>CAN</b>	<b>Christian Association of Nigeria</b>
<b>CBOs</b>	<b>Community Based Organisations</b>
<b>CD</b>	<b>Campaign for Democracy</b>
<b>CDRA</b>	<b>Center for Development, Research and Advocacy</b>
<b>CEDAR</b>	<b>Centre for Enterprise, Development and Research</b>
<b>CDHR</b>	<b>Committee for Defense of Human Rights</b>
<b>CFCR</b>	<b>Citizens' Forum for Constitutional Reforms</b>
<b>CIRDDOC</b>	<b>Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre</b>
<b>CISCOPE</b>	<b>Civil Society Coalition on Poverty Eradication</b>
<b>CISCHAN</b>	<b>Civil Society Coalition on HIV and AIDs in Nigeria</b>
<b>CLO</b>	<b>Civil Liberties Organisation</b>
<b>CRD</b>	<b>Center for Research and Documentation</b>
<b>CRP</b>	<b>Constitutional Rights Project</b>
<b>CS</b>	<b>Civil Society</b>
<b>CSACEFA</b>	<b>Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All</b>
<b>CSE</b>	<b>Civil Society Expert</b>
<b>CSI</b>	<b>Civil Society Index</b>
<b>CSO</b>	<b>Civil Society Organisation</b>
<b>DPC</b>	<b>Development Policy Centre</b>
<b>DevNet</b>	<b>Development Information Network</b>
<b>ECG</b>	<b>Employers Consultative Group</b>
<b>EFA</b>	<b>Education For All</b>
<b>ERA</b>	<b>Environmental Rights Agenda</b>
<b>ERN</b>	<b>Electoral Reform Network</b>
<b>FCT</b>	<b>Federal Capital Territory</b>
<b>FOMWAN</b>	<b>Federation Of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria</b>
<b>GADA</b>	<b>Gender and Development Action</b>
<b>GCAP</b>	<b>Global Call to Action Against Poverty</b>
<b>INEC</b>	<b>Independent National Electoral Commission</b>
<b>JNI</b>	<b>Jama'atu Nasril Islam</b>
<b>LHR</b>	<b>League for Human Rights</b>
<b>MAN</b>	<b>Manufacturers Association Of Nigeria</b>
<b>MASSOB</b>	<b>Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra</b>
<b>MDG</b>	<b>Millennium Development Goals</b>
<b>NAG</b>	<b>National Advisory Group</b>
<b>NANS</b>	<b>National Association of Nigerian Students</b>
<b>NANF</b>	<b>National Association of Nigerian Farmers</b>
<b>NBA</b>	<b>Nigerian Bar Association</b>
<b>NCCI</b>	<b>Nigerian Chambers of Commerce and Industry</b>
<b>NCO</b>	<b>National Coordinating Organisation</b>
<b>NEEDS</b>	<b>National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy</b>
<b>NIT</b>	<b>National Index Team</b>
<b>NLC</b>	<b>Nigeria Labour Congress</b>

<b>NMA</b>	<b>Nigeria Medical Association</b>
<b>NUJ</b>	<b>Nigerian Union of Journalists</b>
<b>OPC</b>	<b>Odua'a People's Congress</b>
<b>PAYE</b>	<b>Pay As You Earn</b>
<b>PLWA/ PLWHA</b>	<b>People Living with AIDS/ People Living with HIV/AIDS</b>
<b>RSC</b>	<b>Regional Stakeholders Consultation</b>
<b>SAP</b>	<b>Structural Adjustment Policies</b>
<b>TMG</b>	<b>Transition Monitoring Group</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNHCR</b>	<b>United Nations High Commission on Refugees</b>
<b>VAT</b>	<b>Value Added Tax</b>
<b>WACOL</b>	<b>Women Aid Collectives</b>
<b>WARDC</b>	<b>Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre</b>
<b>WORNACO</b>	<b>Women for a Representative National Congress</b>
<b>WRAPA</b>	<b>Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Action</b>
<b>ZCC</b>	<b>Zero Corruption Coalition</b>

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## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the CIVICUS Civil Society Index (CSI) in Nigeria, carried out from May 2005 to July 2007. The CSI has two main objectives: 1) to generate and share useful and relevant knowledge of the state of civil society in Nigeria, and increase the capacity and commitment of civil society stakeholders to strengthen civil society; and 2) to enhance the strength and sustainability of civil society, and its contributions to positive changes.

The CSI is a participatory research project that assesses the state of civil society in countries around the world. The project includes a reflective assessment exercise and action-planning among civil society stakeholders, which aims at strengthening civil society in those areas where weaknesses or challenges are identified. By combining the results of a valid assessment, broad-based reflection and joint action, the CSI hopes to contribute to the development and strengthening of civil society in Nigeria.

The CSI was implemented by a National Index Team (NIT), which included two National Co-ordinating Organisations (NCO), a Civil Society Expert, (CSE) and three primary researchers, guided by a National Advisory Group (NAG) and the CIVICUS CSI project team. The NIT collected and synthesized data and information on civil society from a variety of primary and secondary sources. This information was presented to the NAG, which then scored the 74 indicators making up the CSI framework. The scores and findings were discussed at a National Workshop, where civil society stakeholders identified specific strengths and weaknesses of civil society and developed recommendations to strengthen civil society. CIVICUS, the CSI headquarters, provided training, technical assistance and quality control to the NCO throughout the project implementation.

The CSI in Nigeria was funded by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the IDRC, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Action Aid Nigeria. The two NCOs in Nigeria were: Action Aid Nigeria and Development Network. These organisations were given the task of clarifying, elaborating, and operationalising the project activities.

The CSI methodology stresses a participatory approach that builds on existing knowledge and shares lessons and experiences on the strengths and weaknesses of civil society organisations. In doing so, it seeks to capture the voices and perceptions of the key actors within civil society as well as external stakeholders, particularly those within the state and the private sector.

The CSI draws on both primary and secondary sources to generate knowledge about civil society in Nigeria. Two techniques were deployed in generating primary data: Community Sample Surveys (CS) implemented in July/August 2005 and the Regional Stakeholders Questionnaires and Consultations (RSCs) in March 2006.

The RSCs were developed to collect information about civil society in different regions of the country, using a questionnaire and consultation with individuals that either belong to civil society or are knowledgeable of civil society within a specific region. In Nigeria, the RSCs were held in 4 regions: the south-east and south-south (Enugu), in the south-west (Ibadan), in the north-central (Kaduna) and in the north-west (Sokoto). There was a slight modification in the implementation of the RSCs. Instead of distributing them into six geo-political zones, the country was instead divided into four zones to capture the most salient elements of diversity. Questionnaires were designed by CIVICUS CSI and then revised and distributed by the NIT in Nigeria. Over twenty stakeholders participated in the RSC in each region which reflected the diversity of civil society organisations such as NGOs, CBOs, and faith-based groups. The primary task of the consultations was to confirm and validate answers to the questionnaires,

particularly with regard to contentious answers, and to capture new issues that may not have been addressed in the analysis of the questionnaires. Questions that had received mixed responses were also clarified and discussed during the consultations.

The CS was a key methodology used to assess the state of civil society, sent out to communities in Sokoto, Cross River, Oyo and Imo states. A purposive sampling method was used when selecting the communities, to capture different geo-political zones in the country. In this regard, the six geo-political zones were taken as the sampling frame. Out of these six, four zones, which represent the major geographical areas in the country, were selected – the North-West (Sokoto state), South-West (Oyo), South-South (Cross Rivers) and South-East (Imo). Approximately one hundred questionnaires were administered in each of these four areas.

Data collected for both the RSC and CS were analysed using MS-Excel and SPSS templates as provided by CIVICUS. Tables were extracted from the run data, while for indicator scoring some of the data were re-coded and subjected to further analysis. This report is therefore largely based on the analysis.

Overall, the CSI project has provided useful knowledge on civil society in Nigeria, which has the potential to increase stakeholder's commitments in strengthening civil society. The collection of data and experiences and the application of the CSI methodology and approach in the context of Nigeria have also yielded good results. While there were challenges implementing the CSI in Nigeria, insights have been gained from this project which will help to define and develop further research and activities.

## **Structure of the Report**

The CSI framework, including its four dimensions (Structure, Environment, Values, and Impact), sub-dimensions and indicators, are used as the primary basis of this report.

Section I, “The CSI Project: Background and Methodology”, provides a detailed history of the CSI, its conceptual framework, and research methodology.<sup>2</sup>

Section II, “Civil Society in Nigeria”, provides information on civil society in Nigeria and highlights some specific features. It also describes the use of the civil society concept in Nigeria and the definition used by the CSI project. Lastly, it describes the Social Forces Analysis (SFA) exercise.

Section III, entitled “Analysis of Civil Society”, is divided into four parts – Structure, Environment, Values and Impact – which correspond to the four main dimensions of the CSI, with the data and findings of each individual indicator and sub-dimension. Different case studies are also included in this section.

Section IV, “Strengths and Weaknesses of Nigerian Civil Society” summarises the ideas, arguments and opinions raised during the National Workshop, held on 19 – 20 March 2007 at Peace Haven Hotel, Abuja, where 63 participants from CSOs and academic institutions had the opportunity to validate, criticise, and supplement the findings through their participation in plenary sessions and small group discussions.

Section V, “Recommendations” provides the recommendations developed at the National Workshop and other project events, which focus on ways that civil society can be strengthened in Nigeria.

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<sup>2</sup> See also Appendix 3 ‘The Scoring Matrix’ for more details.



Finally, the “Conclusion” in Section VI describes the Civil Society Diamond<sup>3</sup> and offers an interpretation of the report’s implications for the overall state of Nigerian civil society.

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<sup>3</sup> The Civil Society Diamond is a visual tool developed by CIVICUS and Helmut Anheier, Director of the Center for Civil Society at the University of California, Los Angeles, which presents the overall findings of the CSI study in the form of a diamond-shaped graph (see Anheier, 2004).

# I. CIVIL SOCIETY INDEX PROJECT BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

## 1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The idea of a Civil Society Index (CSI) originated in 1997, when the international non-governmental organisation CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation published the *New Civic Atlas* containing profiles of civil society in 60 countries around the world. To improve the comparability and quality of the information contained in the *New Civic Atlas*, CIVICUS embarked on the development of a comprehensive assessment tool for civil society, the Civil Society Index (Heinrich and Naidoo 2001; Holloway 2001). In 1999, Helmut Anheier, the the Director of the Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics at the time, played a significant role in the creation of the CSI (Anheier, 2004). The CSI concept was tested in 14 countries during a pilot phase lasting from 2000 to 2002. On completion of the pilot phase, the project approach was thoroughly evaluated and refined. In its current implementation phase (2003-2005), CIVICUS and its country partners are implementing the project in more than fifty countries (see table I.1.1).

**Table I.1.1: Countries participating in the CSI implementation phase 2003-2005<sup>4</sup>**

1. Argentina	18. Gambia	36. Northern Ireland
2. Armenia	19. Georgia	37. Orissa (India)
3. Azerbaijan	20. Germany	38. Palestine
4. Bolivia	21. Ghana	39. Poland
5. Bulgaria	22. Greece	40. Romania
6. Burkina Faso	23. Guatemala	41. Russia
7. Chile	24. Honduras	42. Scotland
8. China	25. Hong Kong (VR China)	43. Serbia
9. Costa Rica	26. Indonesia	44. Sierra Leone
10. Croatia	27. Italy	45. Slovenia
Cyprus	28. Jamaica	46. South Korea
11. southern part of Cyprus	29. Lebanon	47. Taiwan
12. northern part of Cyprus	30. Macedonia	48. Togo
13. Czech Republic	31. Mauritius	49. Turkey
14. East Timor	32. Mongolia	50. Uganda
15. Ecuador	33. Montenegro	51. Ukraine
16. Egypt	34. Nepal	52. Uruguay
17. Fiji	35. Nigeria	53. Vietnam
		54. Wales

In Nigeria, the Project was jointly implemented by Action Aid Nigeria and Development Network, civil society organisations dedicated to building the capacity of civil society in Nigeria. Action Aid staff attended a training workshop on the CSI framework, methodology, and research activities. Although CIVICUS and Action Aid International funded the first part of the process, acquiring funding for the project was difficult forcing the project to stall until UNDP financed the remaining part of the work in 2007.

<sup>4</sup> This list encompasses independent countries as well as other territories in which the CSI has been conducted, as of January 2006.

## 2. PROJECT APPROACH

The CSI is based on a broad definition of civil society and uses a comprehensive implementation approach that utilises various research methods. To assess the status of civil society in a particular country, the CSI examines four key dimensions – structure, environment, values and impact. Each dimension comprises a number of sub-dimensions, which include individual indicators. These represent the basis for data collection within the CSI. The data is collected through several methods: secondary data collection, a community survey, a civil society stakeholder survey, regional workshops, a media review, structured expert consultations and several case studies. The indicators are then separately assessed and discussed by the NAG. The outcomes of the research and assessment are discussed by the representatives of the key stakeholders at the National Workshop. The task at the National Workshop is to identify the specific strengths and weaknesses and to provide recommendations for key actions aimed at strengthening civil society. The CSI project approach, the conceptual framework, research and assessment methodology are described in detail in this section.

### 2.1. Conceptual Framework

#### *How to define civil society?*

CIVICUS defines *civil society as the arena, outside of the family, the state and the market where people associate to advance common interests.*<sup>5</sup> The CSI has two interesting features that contrast with other civil society concepts. First, its goal is to avoid the conventional focus on formal and institutionalised civil society organisations by also considering informal coalitions and groups. Second, whereas civil society is sometimes perceived as an area with positive actions and values, the CSI seeks to assess both the positive and the negative manifestations of civil society. This concept consequently includes not only the humanitarian organisations and associations active in environmental protection, for example, but also groups such as skinheads and aggressive football supporters. The CSI not only assesses the extent to which CSOs support democracy and tolerance, but also the extent of their intolerance or even violence.

#### *How to conceptualize the state of civil society?*

The CSI examines civil society along four main dimensions:

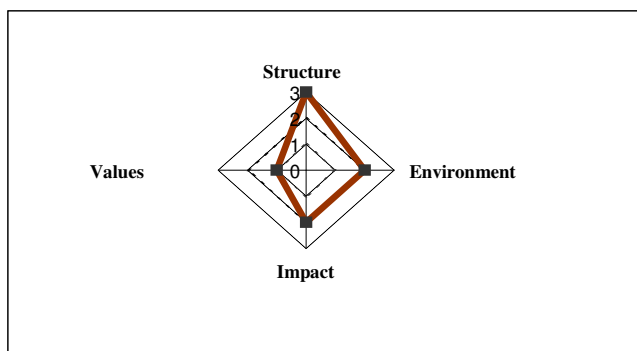
- The **structure** of civil society (e.g. number of members, extent of giving and volunteering, number and features of umbrella organisations and civil society infrastructure, human and financial resources);
- The external **environment** in which civil society exists and functions (e.g. legislative, political, cultural and economic context, relationship between civil society and the state, as well as the private sector);
- The **values** practiced and promoted within the civil society arena (e.g. democracy, tolerance or protection of the environment); and
- The **impact** of activities pursued by civil society actors (e.g. public policy impact, empowerment of people, meeting societal needs).

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<sup>5</sup> This CIVICUS definition of civil society was debated and agreed upon at the NAG meetings, RSCs and National workshop. However, there was one minor alteration when participants agreed to use the word *space* instead of *arena*.

Each of these main dimensions is divided into a set of sub-dimensions which contain a total of 74 indicators.<sup>6</sup> These indicators are at the heart of the CSI and form the basis of the data presented in this report. The indicator-sub-dimension-dimension framework underpinned the entire process of data collection, the writing of the research report, the NAG's assessment of Nigerian civil society and the presentations at the National Workshop. It is also used to structure the main section of this publication.

**Figure I.2.1 CIVICUS Civil Society Diamond**



To visually present the scores of the four main dimensions, the CSI uses the Civil Society Diamond tool (see figure I.2.1). The Civil Society diamond graph, with its four extremities, visually summarises the strengths and weaknesses of civil society. The diagram is the result of the individual indicator scores aggregated into sub-dimension and then dimension scores. As it captures

the essence of the state of civil society across its key dimensions, the Civil Society Diamond provides a useful starting point for interpretations and discussions about how civil society appears in a given country. As the Diamond does not aggregate the dimension scores into a single score, it cannot, and should not, be used to rank countries according to their scores for the four dimensions. Such an approach was deemed inappropriate for a civil society assessment, with so many multi-faceted dimensions, contributing factors and actors. The Diamond also depicts civil society at a certain point in time and therefore lacks a dynamic perspective. However, if applied iteratively, it can be used to chart the development of civil society over time, as well as compare the state of civil societies across countries (Anheier, 2004).

## 2.2. Project Methodology

This section describes the methods used for collecting and aggregating various data used in the project.

### 2.2.1. Data Collection

The CSI recognised that, in order to generate a valid and comprehensive assessment of civil society, a variety of perspectives and data should be included – insider, external stakeholder and outsider views, as well as objective data ranging from the local and the regional to the national level. The CSI therefore includes the following set of research methods: (1) Review of existing information, (2) Regional Stakeholder Consultations, (3) Community Sample Survey, (4) Media Review and (5) Fact-Finding Studies.

It is believed that this mix of different methods is essential for generating accurate and useful data and information, and also accommodates the variations of civil society; for example, in rural versus urban areas. The CSI also seeks to utilise all available sources of information to avoid 're-inventing research wheels' and wasting scarce resources. Lastly, the research methodology is explicitly designed to promote learning and, ultimately, action on the part of participants. Besides feeding into the final national level seminar, data collection processes

<sup>6</sup> See Appendix 3.

also contribute to participant learning. This is done, for example, through group-based approaches that challenge participants to see themselves as part of a “bigger picture”, to think beyond their own organisational or sectoral context, to reflect strategically about relations within and between civil society and other parts of society, to identify key strengths and weaknesses of their civil society and assess collective needs. It is important to note that the CSI provides an aggregate needs assessment on civil society as a whole, and is not designed to exhaustively map the various actors active within civil society. However, it does examine power relations within civil society and between civil society and other sectors, and identifies key civil society actors when looking at specific indicators under the structure, values and impact dimensions.

The Nigerian CSI study applied the following methods for data collection:

- **Secondary Sources:** The team started the project with an overview of secondary sources on civil society, including information from existing research, consultations or other sources. This information was synthesized into an Overview Report which identified the research gaps.
- **Community Survey:** The country was divided into four regions: North (Sokoto State); South-West (Oyo State); South-South (Imo State); and South-East (Cross River State). The survey interviewed representatives of the Nigerian Government, civil society actors, the media, and the corporate sector.
- **Regional Stakeholder Questionnaires and Consultations:** Regional questionnaires were distributed in selected regions of the country. Of those who participated, 97 of them met in a one-day discussion of the questionnaire findings.
- **Media Review:** 13 media sources, including 10 print and 3 electronic sources were monitored for three months from June to September 2005 on their coverage of civil society matters.
- **Key Informant Interviews:** A total of 15 civil society experts were interviewed on specific issues of civil society. Three of these are referred to in the policy impact case studies.

### *2.2.2. Aggregating Data*

The data collected for the project was structured according to the CSI indicators, sub-dimensions and dimensions. Each indicator was attributed a score between 0 and 3 (0 being the lowest value and 3 the highest). Each potential indicator score (0, 1, 2 and 3) was described in either qualitative or quantitative terms. The NAG scoring exercise is modeled on a “citizen jury” approach (Jefferson Centre, 2002) in which citizens come together to deliberate, and make decision on a public issue, based on presented facts. The NAG’s role is to give a score (similar to passing a judgment) on each indicator based on the evidence (or data) presented by the National Index Team (NIT) in the form of the draft country report.

Indicator scores were discussed among NAG members using the information provided for each indicator through the research. Based on this discussion and the scoring matrix featuring the indicator score descriptions (See Annex 3: CSI Scoring Matrix), the NAG decided on a score for each respective indicator. The National Workshop also played a role in validating the indicators; if an adequate rationale was provided, participants at the National Workshop could decide to change the indicator score provided by the NAG. The National Workshop validated all of the NAG scores, but disagreed with six indicator scores: communication; the rule of law; tolerance; CSO registration; meeting pressing societal needs directly; and meeting needs of marginalised groups. The National Workshop participants were also asked to provide comments and reflections related to the CSI findings. Participants at the National

Workshop were able to build a common understanding of the current state of civil society and make recommendations to strengthen civil society.

### **2.3. Linking Research With Action**

The CSI is not a purely academic project. Its goal is to involve civil society actors in the research process, contribute to a discussion on civil society and provide recommendations on how to strengthen civil society. The CSI is an action research project aimed at using participatory means for stakeholders to identify key issues and work towards overcoming the challenges and building on their strengths. The findings and scores were presented and validated at a National Workshop that brought together a large group of civil society stakeholders, where strategies for addressing identified weaknesses were discussed.

The NAG which comprised civil society actors and stakeholders from the media, government and the private sector, discussed the project methodology, and defined and assessed Nigerian civil society based on the given indicators by calibrating certain indicator score categories.

This National Workshop was the climax of the CSI process, and provided an opportunity for civil society stakeholders to reflect on the current state of civil society, its strengths and weaknesses, and to identify policy recommendations to strengthen the sector. The workshop discussed the research results and their implications for the country. The NAG scores were reviewed and validated or changed. Participants identified the overall strengths and weaknesses of civil society and provided recommendations for future activities.

### **2.4. Project Outputs**

The CSI implementation in Nigeria delivered several products, including:

- A comprehensive Country Report on the status of civil society in Nigeria, which includes a list of recommendations to strengthen the sector;
- Consultations with more than 100 stakeholders on the state of civil society in Nigeria;
- A press conference that will discuss and disseminate the key findings.

## II. PUTTING CIVIL SOCIETY IN CONTEXT

### 1. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Nigeria is an extraordinarily diverse country, with over 250 ethnic groups within its borders. The largest, most influential groups are the Hausa-Fulani, the Yoruba and the Igbo. Religious divisions are evident; there is a large Muslim population mainly in the north and a large Christian population mainly in the south. A small minority follows traditional African religions. Although English is the official language, over 300 different languages are spoken. These social divisions have resulted in a series of ethnic and religious clashes. The exacerbation of these differences has propelled the country's political leadership, both civilian and military, to seek control over constitutional and

political power. For almost 40 years, Nigeria was ruled by a series of military governments where corruption, economic mismanagement, and ethnic/religious conflicts were common features of the various regimes. With the return of democratic rule in 1999, the livelihoods of Nigerians have begun to improve.

The democratic government has adopted a federal system of government, and has created 36 new states that can be characterized by their ethno-regional differences. Though not constitutionally entrenched, the country is presently divided into six geo-political zones: North-Central, North-East, North-West, South-East, South-South and South-West (see Figure II.1 for a map of Nigeria).

A major challenge is economic corruption and mismanagement. While Nigeria is one of the world's largest oil producers, the revenues from this sector have not been distributed equitably among the population, and over 70 million Nigerians are forced to live on less than US \$1 a day. This widespread poverty is the result of decades of turmoil and instability, which followed independence from Britain in 1960.

Moreover, prolonged military rule, accounting for over 30 years of Nigeria's post-independence history, has resulted in the systematic closure of the political space. The suspension of constitutional rule, the centralization of political power, and the denial of the basic rights and freedoms of citizens led to the emergence of all kinds of associational life that stood up to successive military governments. Coupled with the economic failure of the 1980s and the introduction of orthodox structural adjustment policies (SAPs), this led to the emergence of several other civic organisations, ranging from human rights organisations and professional associations to business and mutual self-help associations thriving across the country, both urban and rural. As Alemika<sup>7</sup> observes, the era of adjustment and military

#### Table II.1.1: Country Information

**Country size:** 923,768.64 Square Kilometres

**Population:** 140,003,542

**Population density:** 145/km<sup>2</sup>

**Population under 14 years:** 42.2% (male 28,726,380/ female 28,301,729)

**Form of government:** Presidential Federal Republic

**Freedom House Democracy rating:** "partly free," "5" - civil liberties

and a "4" - political rights,

**Seats in local and national parliament held by women (2007):** 4.58%

**Language:** There are over 350 languages, but the official language is English

**Ethnicity:** Over 250 ethnic groups

**Religion:** Mainly Christianity, Islam and Traditional Religions

**HDI Score & Ranking:** 0.448 ranking 159

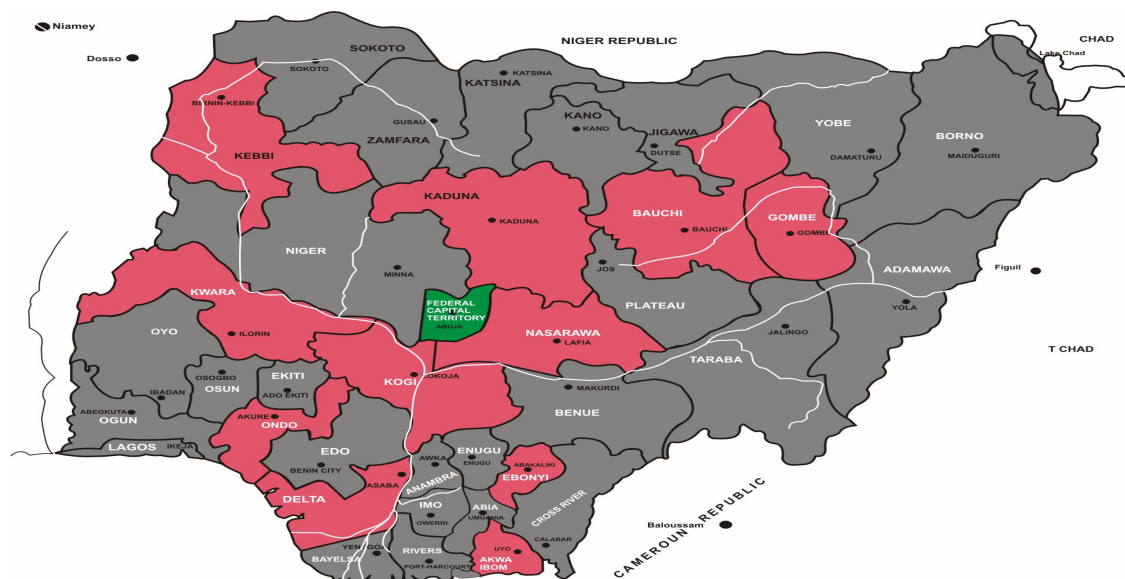
**GDP per capita:** \$1188

**Unemployment rate:** 5.8% (estimate)

<sup>7</sup> Alemika, E. E. (2000:3) 'Civil Society and Democracy: Sociological and Economic Analysis of Power'; paper presented at the *Workshop on Welfare Associations as Building Blocks for Democracy*, organised by AFRIGOV, Kaduna, June 14-20.

dictatorships in the 1980s and 1990s witnessed the proliferation of the “NGO industry” around diverse issues such as human rights, environment, democratisation, women empowerment, poverty reduction, population, reproductive rights, health and development, among others.

**Figure II.1 An Historical Map of Nigeria Showing the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory**



Source: Wilberforce Conference on Nigerian Federalism, 1997. Colour: Partnership Against Poverty at Action Aid Nigeria

## 2. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN NIGERIA

Nigeria has a long and strong tradition of civil society, which represents the diverse and pluralistic nature of Nigerian society. Nigeria's history of struggle and resistance was primarily led by civil society groups. In fact, their formation and activities date back to the colonial period when different groups, sometimes locally and territorially based, and at other times transcending clan and “tribal” boundaries, became part of the nationalist protest against the repressive colonial state. In the immediate post-independence period, CSOs engaged in community ‘self-help’ activities, provided humanitarian assistance at the grassroots level.

Following this, labour organisations, student associations, and the media provided a strong leadership and organised protests against unpopular policies during the first civilian administration in 1960 to 1966. Subsequent military regimes which came to power through *coup d'états* resorted to mounting political transition programmes without a push from civil society.<sup>8</sup> During these critical stages of political history, the vibrancy of civil society in Nigeria increased, and indeed, it played a strategic role in forming nationalistic elites in the struggle against the colonial state and the ultimate struggle against military dictatorships.

Between the 1980s and early 1990s, civil society played three important roles. First, it played a leading role in mobilizing the poor and their organisations against unpopular economic

<sup>8</sup> Young, C. (1997), ‘Permanent Transitions and Changing Political Conjunctures’ in C. Young and P. Beckett, eds. *Dilemmas of Democracy in Nigeria*. Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press.



policies within the SAP framework. Second, a plethora of civic groups and associations including grassroots, community-based associations, and faith-based associations emerged providing assistance to their members and the poor, in the absence of reliable government “safety nets” or welfare systems. Third, and most importantly, civil society organisations have played a very critical role in the expansion of the political space. The role of civil society organisations, especially the pro-democracy and human rights groups in this regard, has gained legitimacy among citizens; it is an indicator of Nigeria’s return to civil politics, and a watch-dog of the democratisation process.

### 3. OVERVIEW OF THE CONCEPT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

What is civil society? How is it understood in the Nigerian context, and what is or is not included as “civil society”? The strong influence that civil society organisations have on politics, how they are defined, and the different contexts in which they have emerged, make it very difficult to formulate a common definition of civil society. In recognition of this difficulty, it is important to see whether the CIVICUS definition of civil society – the ‘arena, outside the family, the state, and the market where people associate to advance common interests’ – truly reflects and fits with the reality of civil society on the ground.

Following the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries and the birth of ‘Third Wave’ democracies, there was a strong re-entry of the term civil society around the world. However, it is important to recognise that the dominant definitions and conceptualisations of civil society being used tend to be extrapolated from the Western historical experience. At times it is difficult to reconcile these various conceptions and experiences with the type of civil society organizations found in Africa.

Larry Diamond defines civil society as the “realm of organized social life that is open, voluntary, self-generating, at least partially self-supporting, and autonomous from the state, and bound by a legal order or set of shared rules.”<sup>9</sup> The problem with this definition, however, is that it is difficult to distinguish civil society from society in general, as it involves citizens acting collectively in the public sphere. Adebayo Olukoshi is better able to clarify this, by viewing civil society as a sphere that is “made up of associations – voluntary, autonomous, professional or non-professional – which have risen out of self-organisational efforts of various social forces.”<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, Eghosa Osaghae identifies three key elements as important in the definition or conceptualization of civil society: autonomy from the state, public character (setting a normative order for the state) and furtherance of a common good.<sup>11</sup> On the basis of this definition, grassroots social movements which draw their strength from solidarity and the struggle against oppression are part of civil society.

Roniger provides further elaboration arguing that the primary function of civil society is to provide a platform for citizens to express their interests, preferences and ideas, to exchange information, achieve collective goals and make demands to improve the structure and functioning of the state.<sup>12</sup> Within these activities the question of holding state officials

<sup>9</sup> Diamond, L (1999:221) *Developing Democracy: Towards Consolidation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

<sup>10</sup> Olukoshi, A. (1997: 474) “Associational Life” in L. Diamond, A. Kirke-Greene and O. Oyediran, eds. *Transition Without End*. Ibadan: Vintage Press.

<sup>11</sup> Osaghae, E. (1997:15) ‘The Role of Civil Society in Consolidating Democracy: An African Comparative Perspective’, *Africa Insight*, Vol. 27, No. 1.

<sup>12</sup> Roniger, L (1994), ‘The Comparative Study of Clientelism and Changing Nature of Civil Society in the Contemporary World’ in L. Roniger and Gues-Ayata, (eds.) *Democracy, Clientilism and Civil Society*. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

accountable for their actions is central to the *raison d'être* of civil society. Therefore, a strong assumption embedded within this definition is that associational life provides a mechanism through which public interests and commitments are formulated and through which ideas regarding basic freedoms and entitlements of citizens are clarified and defended.

In major contributions that seek to position civil society, Bayart and Chabal not only locate civil society as a formal and institutional sphere separated from the state, but they also view the relationship of civil society to the state in an oppositional sense.<sup>13</sup> Chabal, among others, emphasises two important characteristics of civil society: 1) what is obviously not part of the state and is powerless and disenfranchised; and 2) those who find a common ground in being outside the state and have acquired consciousness of their externality and opposition to the state. Apart from the implicit distinction between what may be regarded as civil society “in-itself” and civil society “for-itself” or the ‘objective’ and ‘subjective’ dimensions of civil society, his views are essentially the same as those of Bayart. Central to these definitions is the political element of confronting the state, where groups that do not confront the state are inherently excluded from his conception of civil society, which is not necessarily the case for civil society. This view is widely accepted by Western scholars who posit a binary view of state and civil society, the latter providing the public realm where individual and group autonomy from the state is articulated and defended, and where collective action is taken to ensure that the state expresses and is bound by the common good or general will (see Seligman<sup>14</sup> and Kumar<sup>15</sup>).

It is important, however, to recognise that the recent ‘rediscovery’ of civil society has much to do with the emergence of the neo-liberal paradigm. As Graf notes, although civil society is seen as an influential factor in democratic practice and consolidation, the notion of democracy commonly spoken about is that which refers to Western countries.<sup>16</sup> Economic and political liberalism are considered two sides of the same coin. In the economic realm, emphasis is placed on rolling back the state and substituting the state with the market as a mechanism for social control. Policies are developed with neo-liberal principles such as monetarism, financial liberalisation, privatisation and economic efficiency, among others. In the political realm, emphasis is on constitutionalism, the rule of law, multi-party systems, regular and periodic elections and a system of indirect representation.

The neo-liberal theory assumes that economic and political reforms will have a liberating role on civil society and hence promote democratic values and practices. However, this neo-liberal assumption has not materialised in most African countries. As Beckman noted, the rise of CSOs was not triggered by the liberating market reforms but rather as a response to the economic crisis and adjustments.<sup>17</sup>

Part of the problem is that many African scholars and practitioners derive the notion of civil society from a Western historical experience where civil society is viewed in opposition to the state. However, based on the following observations it is clear that we cannot make the same generalisations about civil societies in different countries. First, it cannot always be

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<sup>13</sup> Bayart, J. F (1986) “Civil Society in Africa” in P. Chabal, ed. *Political Domination in Africa: Reflections on the Limits of Power*. London: Cambridge University Press.

<sup>14</sup> Seligman, A. (1992), *The Idea of Civil Society*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

<sup>15</sup> Kumar, K. (1993), “Civil Society: An Inquiry into the Usefulness of an Historical Term” *British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 44, No. 3.

<sup>16</sup> Graf, W. D (1996:44) “Democratization for the Third World: Critique of a Hegemonic Project” *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, No. 15.

<sup>17</sup> Beckman, B. (1993) ‘The Liberation of Civil Society: Neo-Liberal Ideology and Political Theory’ *Review of African Political Economy*, No. 58 pp 30-32.

assumed that civil society exists in opposition to the state. Cyril Obi<sup>18</sup> has drawn attention to the possibility that certain factions of civil society could be susceptible to state manipulation and co-optational strategies. Second, a sizeable number of civic groups are based on identities that are potentially divisive. Ethnic and religious identities, for instance, have provided platforms for the emergence of organisations of civil society that could rely on violence as a means of pursuing their interests in contradiction to the demands of civility. These are politically mobilised identities which can be easily exploited by “extremists”. Third, the reality of economic depression facing groups and individuals could result in the development of coping strategies among civic groups. These features are common among civil societies in Africa, while not necessarily within those in the Western hemisphere.

In Nigeria, consultations and debates with the NAG members, as well as responses to the regional and community questionnaires, provided clear affirmation for the CSI working definition because of its flexibility. For instance, the CSI definition recognises the ‘fuzzy’ and loose nature of the boundary that exists between the wide space and arena that is designated as the domain of civil society and the domains for family, the state and the private sector. During the first NAG meeting, participants raised questions regarding the boundary of civil society when they pointed out that ethnic and kin-based groups who are arguably more concerned with self-interest will not be captured by definitions and assumptions which limit the essence of civil society to the promotion of ‘common good’ or ‘common interests’. Similarly, questions were raised regarding the status of political parties and whether these can be considered a part of civil society. Throughout these discussions, it was recognised that the domain of civil society should not be rigidly defined because of the changing dynamics of civil society. There are also strong possibilities for a combination of actors who may not be seen as belonging to civil society, but engage in activities that curb the dominance of the state or who demand accountability and transparency from leaders and elected officials. Nigerian examples include: Odua’s People’s Congress (OPC), Movement for Actualisation of Sovereign States of Biafra (MASSOB), and Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF). These groups are organised around ethnic majorities and can be categorised as ‘ethnic activists’ demanding accountability and transparency from leaders and elected officials.

During the NAG meeting, participants were asked to identify common elements among broad coalitions of social forces that fall within the realm of civil society. They listed four elements: non-state control of the activities of such organisations, common interests in effective governance, grassroots orientation, and autonomy. When further asked to pull out a definition on the basis of the activities of these organisations, the responses were illuminating. Among others, the following definitions were offered:

- Private sector actors that deal with non-profit activities;
- The sector of society concerned with community interests’
- A necessary part of governance structure that is different from the state and that checks and balances to other components of that structure;
- Groups of people who convene and work autonomously without state control to facilitate progress at all levels especially the grassroots;
- Independent organisations of people that seek effective governance and promoting popular participation.

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<sup>18</sup> Obi, C. (2003) “Civil Society, Good Governance and the Challenge of Regional Security in West Africa: An Overview” in R. A Akindele (ed.) *Civil Society, Good Governance and the Challenges of Regional Security in West Africa*. Ibadan: Vintage Publishers. pp 1-27

## 4. MAPPING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN NIGERIA

This section of the report draws information from secondary sources (textbooks, journals and newspapers) and from primary sources (NAG discussions and Regional Stakeholder Consultations (RSC) data). The mapping of civil society included two exercises: first, to identify key actors within Nigerian society and second, to identify the various groups within civil society and the relationship among them. After having both ‘visual’ maps the discussion focused on the levels of influence of the actors identified, their relationships with other actors, their status in society, and their representation. These discussions provided a clear indication of the nature and character of Nigerian civil society.

For instance, the mapping exercise identified the following ‘critical groups’: professional associations and labour groups; actors guild representing the Nigerian film industry; the media; human rights NGOs; student groups; National Council of Women Society; and faith-based groups. Influential groups belonging to the professional associations and labour include: Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), to mention a few. Groups identified within the ‘pro-democracy and human rights’ categorisation include the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO), and the Citizens Forum for Constitutional Reform (CFCR). Within the NGO sub-sector, local groups and international donor communities were also identified. The analysis was not restricted to groups but also included individuals considered influential in Nigerian society.

From the discussion, it is possible to develop civil society typologies, which include:

**Professional Associations, Labour and Student Groups:** This broad category of associations and groups describe entities that form traditional type of pressure group. Historically, organisations that belong to this group have acted as the “conscience of society” and have also had a long history of varying levels of confrontation with the state traversing the colonial and post-colonial periods in Nigeria’s history. In addition, they are strong mobilisation channels because of a defined membership. Apart from the student movements and the Nigerian labour movement, the bulk of the membership of these groups is drawn from the middle class.

Examples of organisations that belong to this category include: the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS).

Although the primary objective of these groups is to advance their own narrow professional interests, they are also involved in activities of more general interest to society, albeit those which may place them in opposition to the state. In particular, they have mobilised against unpopular state policies that tend to result in socio-economic hardships. For example, the ongoing debate and confrontation between the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), the academic staff and the Union Universities with the Nigerian state over policies in education or general governance issues illustrates these problems.

**The Human Rights and Pro-Democracy Groups:** Civil society organisations in this category have a more recent history. Most of them emerged in response to the military regimes during the 1980s and the 1990s, and the gross human rights violations, as well as the systematic closure of the political space. They were formed by individuals or groups of

concerned professionals such as lawyers, academics and journalists who came together to harness resources and mobilise against autocratic rule. Organisations in this category, which can be described as NGOs, drew most of their supporters and workers from former cadres in the student movements and left-wing intellectuals.

There are numerous examples of organisations belonging to this group which can be identified as the ‘vanguard’ in the struggle against the military regimes in Nigeria. Some of the examples include the Civil Liberties Organisations (CLO), Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (CDHR), Constitutional Rights Project (CRP), and the League for Human Rights (LHR). However, this broad category can be further disaggregated in terms of their functions and orientation. For example, some of them are gender-based, dealing with issues of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, including Women Aid Collective (WACOL), Gender and Development Action (GADA), Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Action (WRAPA) and Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC). Other groups have emerged due to the collapse of the secular education sector. These groups are predominantly established by former academics and are research-driven, including the Development Policy Centre (DPC), the Centre for Development and Democracy, the African Centre for Democratic Governance (AFRIGOV), and the Centre for Research and Documentation (CRD).

**Primordial Groups:** Civil society organisations that fall into this category are those based on ethnic, regional, religious and sectarian identities. However, it is important to explain that the notion “primordial” is purely essentialist because these identities are not only subject to composition, re-composition, and transformation, but are, in fact, politically mobilised and socially constructed groups. Identities on the basis of which these organisations are founded emphasise division and are based on exclusive claims. In other words, they have the tendency to act in an ‘uncivil’ manner, and in doing so, they tend to undermine the state and cause instability rather than strengthening state viability.

In the context of the resurgence of identity politics in Nigeria, there are a number of ethnic-based civic groups across Nigeria, which tend to predominate in the south-south geo-political zone where ethnic minority identity and environmental issues have encouraged the proliferation of civic groups and associations.

There are also faith-based groups within the two main religious groups in the country, Islam and Christianity. The most prominent ones include the Jama’atu Nasril Islam (JNI), Federation of Muslim Women of Nigeria (FOMWAN), and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN). It is important to note that a number of faith-based groups are structured along gender lines, especially in the rural areas. These organisations have mainly focused on democratisation, accountability and transparency issues.

**Business Groups:** This broad category refers to civic groups that have proliferated within the organised business/private sector. They exist in key sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing, agriculture, banking and petroleum. Examples include the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), National Association of Nigerian Farmers (NANF) and Employers Consultative Group (ECG). In general terms, these organisations have been very supportive of market reform policies of successive Nigerian governments, although their specific positions may vary.

**The Voluntary and Mutual Support Group:** Civil society organisations that fall under this genre share a number of important characteristics. First, they tend to be most active in rural areas although they have a strong presence in urban areas. Second, they collaborate with civic society groups that are well-rooted in the people and which can be described as ‘traditional’

and ‘neo-traditional’ organisations. Third, they are well-structured and organised in accordance with their age and gender differentiations.

The primary concern of these organisations is the economic empowerment of their members. For example, they are involved in mobilising credit for their members, developing and encouraging income-generating activities or undertaking development and welfare activities on behalf of their members and the community at large. Therefore, it is suggested that these organisations are strong, popular, and have a legitimate consciousness of the people and can thus become the source of societal renewal in contemporary Nigeria.<sup>19</sup>

Nevertheless, it is difficult to generalise about this category of civil society organisation, as they are often influenced by the specific socio-economic and cultural context in which they exist. For example, the Igbo found in the south-east zone have formed groups through the age-grade. Although networks of rural women involved in credit mobilisation (esusu) can be found in the region, this is more common in the south-west and the north-central regions. However, farmers’ co-operatives and other forms of associational life are most likely to be stronger in the south-west region than in any other part of the country.

Besides these broad categories, other levels of classification can be used in the mapping of civil society in Nigeria, and these include:

**Urban/Rural Location:** In simple terms, this is the typical NGO that dominates in the civil society arena and is mostly located in the urban centres. They are fairly large in size, led by middle class professionals and have advantageous access to funding agencies in the metropolitan centres of the world. In this sense, they are different from smaller CBOs that are mostly found in semi-urban and rural locations.

**Membership Structure:** It is possible to make a distinction between civil society organisations that exist as networks of people and groups and can therefore be said to be membership-driven as opposed to those which are established by individuals. This is determined by the objectives behind the emergence of the organisation in the first place.

**International NGOs:** It is also possible to distinguish between civic groups that are local and those which exist across national borders with their headquarters located in countries of the north.

**TABLE II.1.2. Types of CSOs Included in theStudy**

1. Business federations and chambers	15. Civic action organisations
2. Trade unions	16. Organisations for the protection of human rights
3. Professional organisations and employees’ federations	17. Organisations for the protection of the environment, ecological organisations
4. Faith-based organisations	18. Political initiatives
5. Cultural organisations	19. Local and neighbourhood organisations
6. Sports organisations	20. Collectors, philatelists
7. Educational organisations	21. Hunters
8. Student and parent organisations at schools	22. Bee keepers and other breeders
9. Healthcare organisations	23. Voluntary fire brigades
10. Social services organisations	24. Gardeners and growers
11. Humanitarian organisations	25. Anglers
12. Youth organisations	26. Other recreational CSOs
13. Women’s organisations	27. Funeral associations
14. Ethnic, racial and traditional organisations	28. Mutual savings and mortgage banks

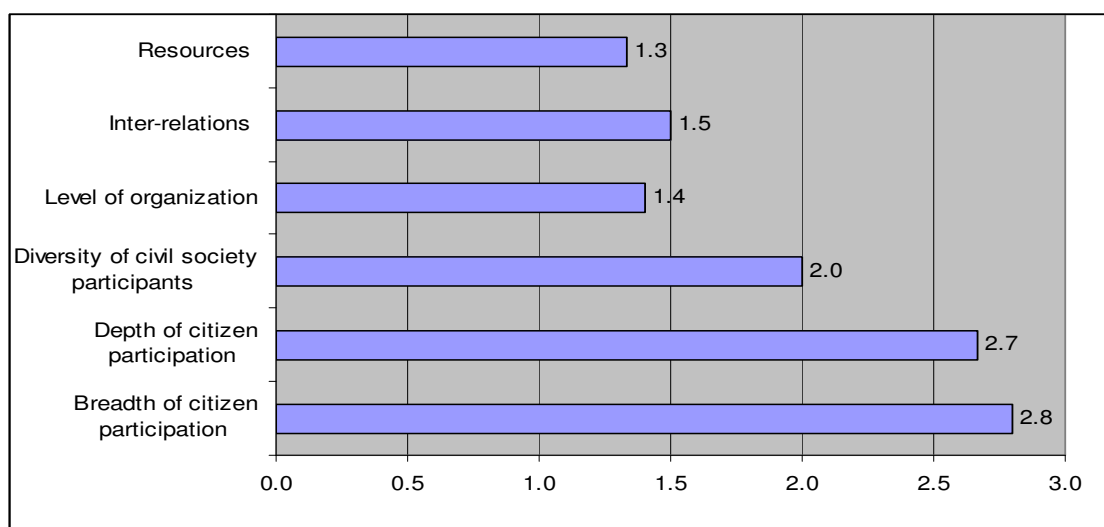
<sup>19</sup> Adedeji, A and Otite, O. (1997) “Introduction” in A. Adedeji and O. Otite, eds. *Nigeria: Renewal from the Roots?* London: Zed Press pp 1-32.

### III. ANALYSIS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The information and data collected during the course of the project is presented in this section. The discussion is structured along the four dimensions: Structure, Environment, Values and Impact, and further divided into the sub-dimensions and indicators.

#### 1. STRUCTURE

This section describes and analyses the overall size, strength and vibrancy of Nigerian CSOs. The Structure Dimension comprises several sub-dimensions including the extent of citizen participation; depth of citizen participation; diversity of civil society participants; level of organisation; inter-relations and civil society resources. The score for the structure dimension of civil society is **2**, which indicates a structure that is quite strong. Figure III.1 presents the scores for the seven sub-dimensions within the Structure dimension.



##### 1.1 Breadth of Citizen Participation in Civil Society

This sub-section examines the proportion and types of citizen participation with civil society. The CSI findings reveal that citizen participation with civil society is fairly high in both urban and rural settings. However, participation in non-partisan political action, especially demonstration, is low compared to collective community actions such as attendance at community meetings and taking part in community-organised events or collective effort to solve common problems. An average score of 2.8 was attained in this sub-dimension.

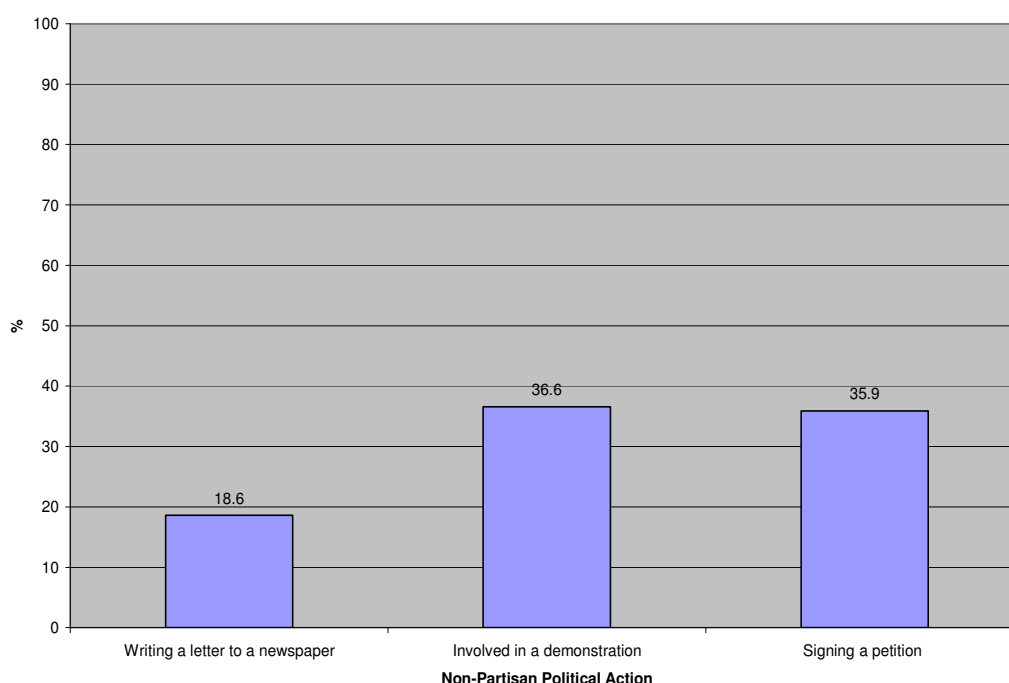
##### 1.2 Table III.1.1: Indicators assessing the breadth of citizen participation

Reference	Indicators	Score
1.1.1	Non-partisan political action	2
1.1.2	Charitable giving	3
1.1.3	CSO membership	3
1.1.4	Volunteer work	3
	Community action	3

##### 1.1.1 Non-Partisan Political Action

This indicator looks at the extent of non-partisan political action among civil society actors in Nigeria. It is evident from the study that the incidence of non-partisan political action is gaining momentum compared to the military period when only a few human rights groups were engaged in such actions. The Community Survey shows that more than half (55%) of the respondents have participated in at least one type of non-partisan political action in the last year. Such actions may include writing a letter to a newspaper, joining a demonstration, or signing a petition. In particular, many of the respondents have been involved in public demonstrations (36.6%) and have signed petitions (35.9%). The least common non-partisan political action is writing a letter to a newspaper (18.6%). Given the high levels of poverty in Nigeria and the government's tendency to ignore newspaper letters, it is not entirely surprising that such a small percentage of participants have been involved in this action. Figure III.1.1.1 provides the percentage breakdown of the participant's responses.

**Figure III.1.1.1 Non-Partisan Political Action**



### *1.1.2 Charitable Giving*

With respect to charitable giving, the findings reveal the majority of the respondents (79%) had donated in cash or in-kind to charitable causes in all the four states covered by the Community Survey. Unfortunately, the Community Survey did not adequately capture the cultural diversity of Nigerians as regards to charitable giving. In Nigeria, the issue of charitable giving also has religious importance among Christians and Muslims. Most people contribute in some way, regardless of what they are able to offer; it is therefore not surprising to find such a high percentage through the Community Survey.

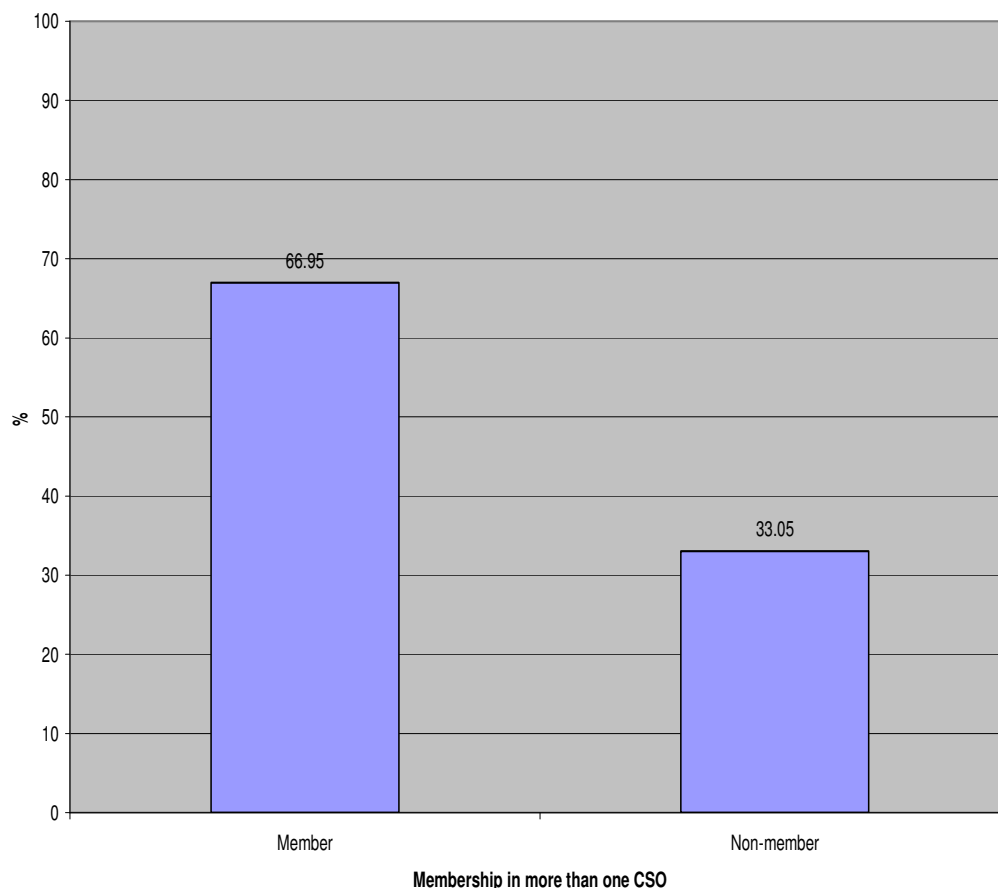
### *1.1.3 CSO Membership*

The CSI findings reveal that the majority of Nigerians are members of or are involved with at least one CSO, with 71% of respondents being members of at least one CSO. Figure III. 1.1.3 presents the participant breakdown of this question. This is not surprising because Nigerians



are known for their associational life, especially for self-help and community development groups. Imo State has the highest percentage of membership followed by Cross River State, which may be explained by the high incidence of active community development initiatives in the South-East, such as age grades, town unions, and community development associations.

**Figure III.1.1.3 CSO Membership**

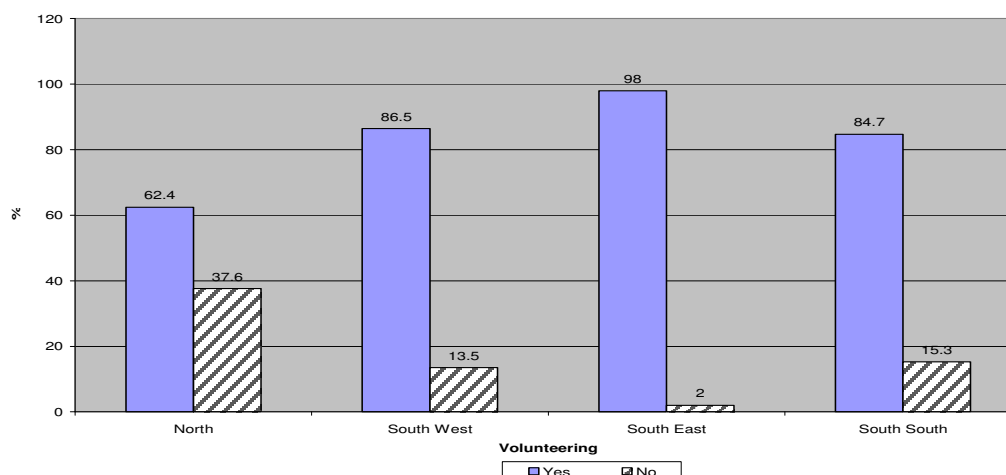


The scenario in the Southeast is also similar in the South West and in the South/South. However, it was also recognized that community development activities by CSOs in the South-East are not as prevalent as in the other districts. On the whole, there are diverse forms of associational life throughout Nigeria, and this is predominantly seen as organised 'self-help' community groups.

#### *1.1.4 Volunteering*

The majority of the respondents (83%) from the Community Survey are involved in some kind of voluntary activity, although this varies according to the different regions (See Figure III.1.1.4). Volunteering is similar to charitable giving, as it has to do with giving support to people. Apart from the religious importance of providing assistance, there is also a cultural value in providing support to the extended family.

Figure III.1.1.4 Volunteering



### 1.1.5 Collective Community Action

The Community Survey findings reveal that 76% of respondents had either participated in a community meeting or taken part in a community activity; this finding corresponds with earlier observations about Nigerian cultural and religious beliefs. About 78% of respondents recalled that in the preceding year community meetings took place to discuss issues arising within the community. Additionally, 62% of the respondents claimed to have attended a community meeting to discuss issues arising within their community in the preceding year.

The culture of community self-help is common in most of the regions, giving people the opportunity to participate in activities aimed at improving their community. It is therefore not surprising that 80% of the respondents claimed that people in their community had voluntarily come together to do some community work on at least one occasion, such as road construction, building of a town hall, water provision or community farming as is done in many parts of Imo State.

## 1.2 Depth of Citizen Participation

This sub-section describes and analyses the depth of people's participation in Nigerian civil society. In particular, it shows the frequency of participation by CSOs. Table III.1.2 reveals a summary of these scores which average 2.7.

Table III.1.2: Indicators assessing the depth of citizen participation

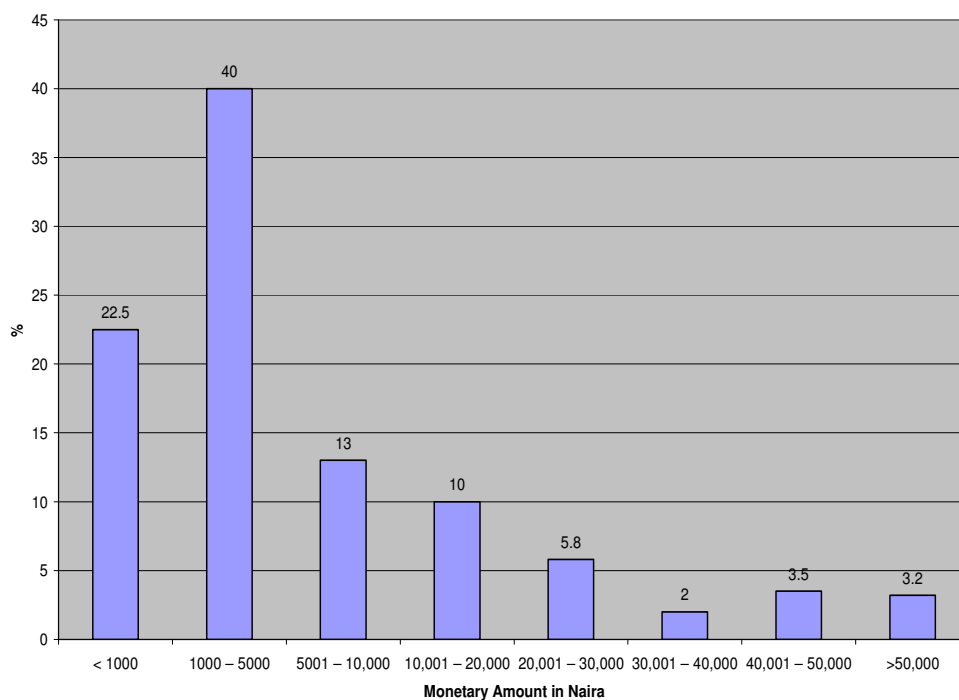
Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>1.2.1</u>	Charitable giving	3
<u>1.2.2</u>	Volunteer work	<u>3</u>
<u>1.2.3</u>	CSO membership	<u>2</u>

### 1.2.1 Charitable Giving

Charitable giving is important in a cultural and religious sense, particularly among Christians and Muslims, reinforced by traditional family structures where the extended family is viewed as providing cushioning and support mechanisms. Many people practice this, irrespective of how much or how little they can offer.

The Community Survey assessed the proportion of personal income people had given to charity in the last twelve months. The responses show that charitable contributions are fairly high. The majority of the people donated between N5,000 and N10,000 per year, as shown in Figure III.1.2.1. Overall, findings reveal that in all the selected states, the majority of the people give more than 4.5% of their personal income to charity. This is more than 3%, which marks the maximum score for this indicator, and confirms the earlier findings that charitable giving is encouraged on a cultural and religious basis.

Figure III.1.2.1 Total value of donations given to charity

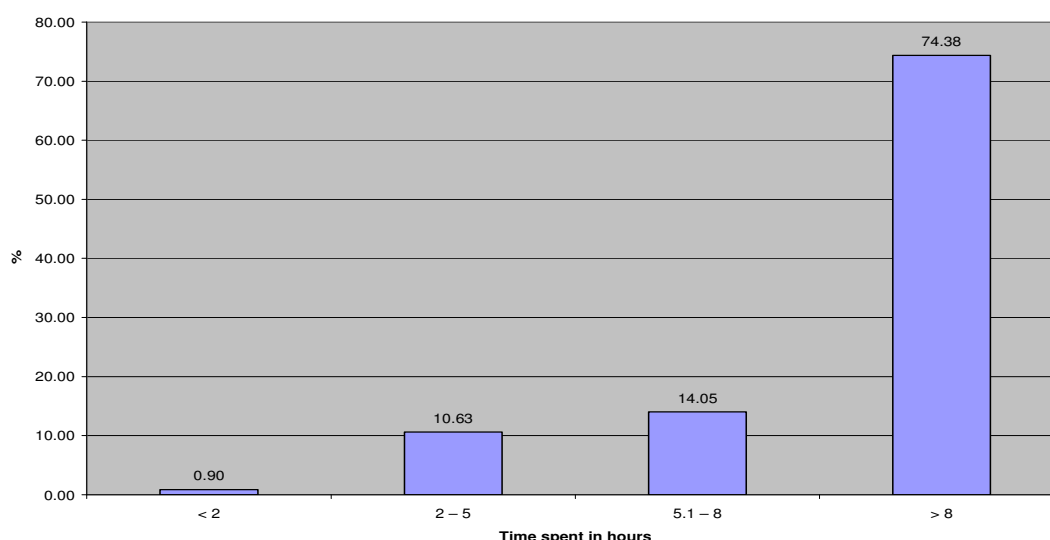


### 1.2.2 Volunteering

This indicator examines how many hours per month (on average) is devoted to volunteer work. Respondents of the Community Survey were asked to state the number of hours they spent in the previous month on activities in associations, groups, networks, or in supporting

other people outside of an organisation.

**Figure III.1.2.2 Time spent volunteering in the last month**



As demonstrated by Figure III.1.2.2, the Community Survey findings reveals that on average, respondents volunteer more than 8 hours per month, indicating a high level of volunteerism among Nigerians. However, it must be explained that most of these voluntary activities are informal and undocumented.

### *1.2.3 CSO Membership*

This indicator tries to determine what percentage of citizens belongs to more than one CSO. In Imo State, about 74% of CSO members belong to more than one association. However, in Cross River State 79% of CSO members belong to more than one CSO, while in Sokoto State, only 30% of CSO members belong to more than one CSO. This is consistent with earlier findings, which confirm that the culture of community self-help, especially in the eastern part of the country, has created multiple memberships in organisations.

## **1.3. Diversity of Civil Society Participants**

This sub-section examines diversity and representation factors of civil society. More specifically, it examines the membership and leadership dynamics of CSOs. A summary of the indicators is seen in Figure III.1.3 below, giving an average score of 2 for this sub-dimension.

**Table III.1.3: Indicators Assessing Diversity of Civil Society Participants**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>1.3.1</u>	Representation of social groups among CSO members	<u>2</u>
<u>1.3.2</u>	Representation of social groups among CSO leadership	<u>2</u>
<u>1.3.3</u>	Distribution of CSOs around the country	<u>2</u>

A strength of civil society in Nigeria is the diversity and inclusiveness of existing social groups, including ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, rural and urban dwellers, and both men and women. Despite this, certain social groups, especially children and the disabled, appear to be excluded. Although the leadership structure appears to reflect diversity

and inclusiveness, it is obviously skewed in favour of men and urban dwellers. The dominant tendency is for men to lead organisations, including organisations that work in the area of women empowerment where one would expect that women would be the leaders.

### *1.3.1. Representation of Social Groups among CSO Members*

This indicator examines the extent to which CSOs represent all significant social groups, as well as marginalised groups such as women, rural dwellers, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities and poor people. As Table III.1.3.1 demonstrates, a reasonable percentage of RSC respondents were of the opinion that women are under-represented (47.2% think that women are either severely under-represented or somewhat under-represented), while 35% of the respondents perceived women to be equitably represented. This under-representation may occur because women suffer from the 'double day' syndrome and are responsible for both working and all of the domestic activities in the household.

Nevertheless, a number of women groups exist at the community level and tend to focus on co-operative and credit associations. Although community development associations tend to be dominated by men, some women's organisations are now devising ways to include women in these issues.

The RSCs findings demonstrate that rural populations are under-represented. The proportions of RSC respondents who held the opinion that rural population are absent or excluded, severely underrepresented and somewhat underrepresented amount to 58.7% while 23.6% of the respondents felt that the rural population was equitably represented.

The findings further show that ethnic linguistic minorities are under-represented in CSOs. However, they are known to have their own town unions which have strong relationships with those in their home bases. Those who perceived this social group to be absent or excluded, severely under-represented and somewhat under-represented accounted for 58.8% of the respondents, while 17.6% felt they are equitably represented. With respect to religious or minority groups, the majority were of the opinion that they are under-represented, although a substantial proportion of the respondents (35.6%) are of the opinion that they are equitably represented.

With respect to the poor, the general consensus is that they are under-represented. It is not surprising that over 60% of respondents feel this way since CSO activities require time and money, which may not be at the disposal of the poor. The poor also tend to be members of traditional community organisations, rather than CSOs, which do not discriminate on the basis of income level. Members of these kinds of branches are regarded as distant members, but they still exercise their normal rights and obligations as home-based members.

**Table III.1.3.1: Social Groups as Members of CSOs**

	<b>Women (%)</b>	<b>Rural Population (%)</b>	<b>Ethnic Linguistic Minorities (%)</b>	<b>Religious Minorities (%)</b>	<b>Poor People (%)</b>
Absent/Excluded	-	5.9	11.8	17.6	11.7
Severely Under-Represented	23.6	35.3	11.8	11.8	23.6
Somewhat Represented	23.6	17.6	35.2	17.6	29.4
Equitably Represented	35.2	23.6	17.6	35.3	23.6
Don't Know	17.6	17.6	23.6	17.6	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The RSCs findings further show that representation and under-representation is different among the regions. For example, social groups are significantly under-represented in Imo and Cross River States. In particular, women and members of the ‘Osu caste’ are largely discriminated against and excluded from CSOs. Similarly, in Sokoto State women are also prevented from being members of some mixed CSOs, by virtue of Islamic principles. Meanwhile, in Oyo State membership of CSOs is open to any social group.

### *1.3.2 Representation of Social Groups in CSO Leadership*

In this indicator, we examine the extent to which there is diversity in CSO leadership, and the extent to which CSO leadership represents all significant social groups. The findings of the RSCs are included in Table III.1.3.2, and overall it demonstrates similar findings to those included in the previous indicator.

The findings also indicate that on the whole women, rural dwellers, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities and poor people are under-represented in CSO leadership. About a third of the respondents were of the opinion that women are equitably represented, while about 24% of the respondents believed that poor people are equitably represented. As leadership positions may require financial commitments or resources, poor people are likely to be excluded.

In sum, 59% of the respondents suggest that women are either excluded severely or somewhat under-represented from leadership positions in CSOs. For rural populations, the corresponding figure is 65% of the respondents. In this case, respondents may have in mind formal development NGOs, most of which are in the urban centres, but sometimes with rural branches. For ethnic linguistic minorities, 70% of the respondents indicate a high level of under-representation in community affairs, while for religious minorities the percentage is about 59% of the respondents. Up to 75% of all stakeholders expect that poor people would be under-represented in CSO leadership positions.

**Table III. 1.3.2: Participation of Social Groups as Leaders of CSOs**

	<b>Women (%)</b>	<b>Rural Population (%)</b>	<b>Ethnic Linguistic Minorities (%)</b>	<b>Religious Minorities (%)</b>	<b>Poor People (%)</b>
Absent/Excluded	-	29.4	5.8	17.6	17.6
Severely Under-Represented	17.6	35.2	17.6	11.8	11.8
Somewhat Represented	41.1	17.6	35.2	29.4	35.2
Equitably Represented	29.4	11.8	17.6	11.8	23.5
Don't Know	11.8	5.8	23.5	29.4	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

It must be noted that organisations that tend to be rural-based are most often controlled by rural people. Similarly, members who ordinarily may not be elected or appointed as leaders in mixed groups would be in their respective groups. Hence, ethnic linguistic minorities CSOs and religious minorities CSOs select or appoint their own leaders. In some isolated cases men

are selected as leaders of women's groups in the belief that they would instill some discipline and order into the groups.

### 1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs

This indicator examines stakeholders' perceptions of how CSOs are distributed within the country. The findings suggest that there is a fair distribution of NGOs between urban and rural locations, despite the high percentage of respondents (50%) who claim to not know. As Table III.1.3.3 demonstrates, 50% of the respondents believe that CSOs are largely concentrated in major cities. Again, this does not mean that CSOs are not present in rural areas or that their activities are not felt in rural areas, but most respondents perceived CSOs to be narrowly defined as NGOs. The fact that 'formal' NGOs are concentrated in large cities is an indication that most of them need infrastructural support, which is mostly available in large cities. Table III.1.3.3 further examines the respondents' breakdown of answers.

**Table III.1.3.3: Geographical Distribution of Civil Society Organisations in the country**

Location of CSOs	Percentage of Respondents
Largely concentrated in major cities	50.0
Largely limited to urban area	-
Present in all except the most remote areas of the country	-
Present in all, even the most remote areas of the country	-
Don't know	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Although CSOs are spread across Nigeria, their distribution between rural areas and large cities varies in each region. While there is a high density of NGOs in both rural and urban areas in the South-West axis of the country, in the South-East part of the country, more rural-based traditional groups organised along the lines of gender and age dominate. In much of the North-Central and core Northern parts of the country, religious groups and traditional institutions dominate. This variation can be explained by differences in traditions, cultures, and beliefs in the different parts of the country. However, given the increased level of social activism in the country in the last 10 years, largely in response to government development policies, the situation is undergoing rapid change.

## 1.4. Level of Organisation

This sub-section looks at the infrastructure and internal organisation of CSOs in Nigeria. More specifically, it examines the existence of umbrella organisations and networks and their effectiveness. These perceptions are summarised in Table III.1.4 with an average score of 1.4 for the sub-dimension.

**Table III.1.4.1: Indicators Assessing Level of Organisation**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>1.4.1</u>	Existence of umbrella bodies	<u>2</u>
<u>1.4.2</u>	Effectiveness of umbrella bodies	<u>2</u>
<u>1.4.3</u>	Self-regulation within civil society	<u>1</u>
<u>1.4.4</u>	Support infrastructure	<u>1</u>
<u>1.4.5</u>	International linkages	<u>1</u>

#### *1.4.1 Existence of CSO Umbrella Bodies*

This indicator analyses the proportion of CSOs that belong to a federation, umbrella body or related organisation. The data shows that a small majority of CSOs belong to a federation or umbrella body or network of civil society organisations, as claimed by 52.9% of the stakeholders interviewed. The reason for this pattern is that most CSOs, especially community-based groups, are not yet informed of the existing CSO networks. It was also noted that many are not aware of the procedures of membership registration. Some may not have the capacity to join because of their leadership skills and financial situation. Community-based CSOs which have umbrella organisations include co-operative societies usually called “iya egbe” (mother association) in the West, but these are representative of specific communities only.

Indeed, the experience in Nigeria since the return to democratic government in May 1999 shows that civic groups have established coalitions and networks which bring them together on issues of common interests. There had been several attempts at establishing formal CSO umbrellas, such as a National NGO Consultative Forum (NINCOF), and a National Association of Voluntary Development Organisations (NAVDO). Despite these efforts, the activities of these umbrella organisations have been rather short-lived. About 56% of the respondents agreed that a small majority of CSOs are organised as umbrella organisations, while 16% of the respondents indicated a large majority. Only 15% agreed that a minority of CSOs are organised into federations.

Many organisations prefer to form around specific issues or interests, and some examples include:

1. Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA), a coalition of over 300 organisations committed to achieving the ‘Education For All’ goals.
2. Civil Society on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CISHAN) focusing on HIV and AIDS in Nigeria.
3. Network of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, a network of persons living positively and working to transform issues of HIV
4. Citizens Forum for Constitutional Reform (CFCR), a coalition of over 100 civil society organisations working on the reform of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
5. Electoral Reform Network (ERN), a coalition of over 80 CSOs engaged in reforming the electoral system and exploring the possibility of an alternative electoral system for Nigeria.
6. National Council of Women Societies, an umbrella body for some women associations.
7. The Penal Reform NGOs which came into existence in 1997 with 85 NGOs and working in the area of the reform of the Nigerian penal system.
8. Feminist Network of Nigeria, a membership group of organisations and individuals committed to standing against patriarchy.
9. Civil Society Coalition on Poverty Eradication.
10. National Coalition on Violence Against Women.
11. Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC) which is working in the area of anti-corruption and promoting transparency and accountability in governance.
12. Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) working on trade justice, improved aid, fair trade and meeting the MDGs in Nigeria.
13. Pro-Poor Governance Network working on various government policies directly affecting the masses of poor people in Nigeria.
14. Women for a Representative National Conference (WORNACO) focusing on equality of women in national issues.



### 1.4.2 Effectiveness of CSO Umbrella Organisations

This indicator examines the effectiveness of umbrella bodies in achieving their goals. As indicated in Table III.1.4.2, the majority of the stakeholders were uncertain about the effectiveness of umbrella bodies. About 53% of the stakeholders indicated that the effectiveness of existing umbrella associations in achieving defined goals is mixed; 18% believed that CSO umbrella bodies are largely ineffective; and 29.4% of the respondents believed that umbrella bodies were generally effective. The umbrella bodies that exist, whether in the form of co-operative associations or town development unions, are, to a large extent, effective at the very least at mobilisation and organisation.

**Table III. 1.4.2: Stakeholders' Perception of the Effectiveness of CSO Federation/Network**

Measure of effectiveness	Percentage of Respondents
Completely ineffective	N/A
Largely ineffective	17.6
Mixed	52.9
Generally effective	29.4
Don't know	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.9</b>

### 1.4.3 Self Regulation

This indicator examines whether there are efforts among CSOs to self-regulate and if so, how effective and enforceable they are. The responses from the Community Survey show that a small minority of stakeholders (11.7%) felt that mechanisms for self-regulation were in place and functioned effectively. By contrast, about one-third of the stakeholders were of the view that no efforts are being made by CSOs to establish codes of conduct or other means of self-regulation. A further one-third of the stakeholders were of the view that some mechanisms for self-regulation are in place but there is limited impact.

The general experience is that, although most CSOs have constitutions, rules and regulations, in most cases these are not observed or practiced. The Allied Matters Act 1990 in Parts A and C provides the basic standards of operation for civil societies that are registered as either Companies Limited by Guarantee or as Incorporated Trustees. However, there is no monitoring of these standards and thus no record on how much CSOs individually self-regulate. Attempts to institute a Government body that would monitor self-regulation have been opposed by civil society.

More often than not, umbrella organisations operate within the constitutional framework that outlines principles for the leadership structure, periodic elections, channels of communication, and information dissemination. They are effective in accomplishing set goals and objectives. Finally, most professional associations have developed a code of ethics that guides the behaviour of members and they are routinely enforced. Although it is still possible to improve in this area because of several cases of abuse, it is important to note that self-regulatory mechanisms are also in place.

### 1.4.4 Support Infrastructure

In general, CSOs' activities require extensive infrastructure support, especially with regard to modern technology or ICTs. This indicator examines the level of infrastructure support that is available to CSOs in Nigeria and attempts to assess its effectiveness. As indicated from the RSCs responses, the general consensus is that there is limited infrastructure support as

claimed by about 53% of the stakeholders. In general, the level of infrastructure support for CSOs is poor in the country, partly because most CSOs operate informally.

There are limited resource centres and information databases, and where these exist, they are either ill-equipped or difficult to access. There is also limited opportunity for technical assistance, and in fact, most CSOs rely on foreign support in this regard. Many CSOs thus have poor accounting systems, experience high staff turnover, lack strategic action plans and personnel policy, and generally have weak organisational development systems.

#### *1.4.5 International Linkages*

This indicator examines CSO international linkages, and the extent of CSO membership in international networks and their participation in international events. International linkages in Nigeria have increased after the struggle against successive military dictatorships and the subsequent restoration of constitutional rule. Despite the existence of such favourable conditions, perceptions among the stakeholders point to a low level of international linkages. For example, a substantial 55% of the respondents noted that very few CSOs have established international linkages, while 32% of the respondents explained that some CSOs have such international linkages. Only 6% maintained that numerous CSOs have established such linkages.

## **1.5. Inter-relations**

This sub-section describes and analyses relations among civil society actors. In particular, it focuses on how strong and productive these relations are within the Nigeria, looking at patterns of communication and co-operation among CSOs. Table III.1.5 indicates scores on the relations amongst civil society actors. The average score for this sub-dimension is 1.5.

**Table III.1.5: Indicators Assessing Inter-relations Within Civil Society Stakeholders**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>1.5.1</u>	Communication among CSOs	<u>1</u>
<u>1.5.2</u>	Co-operation among CSOs	<u>2</u>

#### *1.5.1 Communication*

The existence of networks and umbrella organisations suggests that some forms of communication exist among CSOs. These types of linkages and alliances are created to increase collaboration among CSOs and to share and disseminate information. On a general and broader level, organisation newsletters, magazines, pamphlets, leaflets, and the internet are used as the main communication strategies.

However, findings from the RSCs reveal that communication among CSOs is quite limited. For example, a substantial 46% of the respondents thought that communication among CSOs is limited, while 12% of the respondents maintained that it is very limited. By contrast, only 21% felt that there is a moderate level of communication, while another 21% were of the opinion that communication is significant.

The findings demonstrate that communication among CSOs is quite selective and dependent on access to basic ICT infrastructure. Participants in the NAG meetings also noted the underdeveloped nature of ICT infrastructure which affects communication among CSOs.

### 1.5.2 Co-operation

CSOs have developed alliances and coalitions around certain common issues and interests. A significant 60% of respondents were of the opinion that some alliances and coalitions exist, while 23% of respondents indicated that there are numerous alliances and networks. Only 13% of respondents felt that alliances and coalitions are very few.

The range of networks and umbrella groups listed in Indicator 1.4.1 demonstrates that co-operation between civil society organisations is ongoing. However, many of the co-operation efforts have focused on democracy. For example, Civil Society on Education for All (CSACEFA), a coalition that focuses on achieving education for all, works closely with the Federal Ministry of Education. Recently it has also been assigned to implement the Community Accountability and Transparency Initiative (CATI). The Government feels that CSACEFA will be better positioned to deliver and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that covers the publicity for CATI around the country. It has also set up monitoring and budget tracking mechanisms for the education resources.

Another example is the Citizens Forum for Constitutional Reform (CFCR), which has worked with over 100 civil society organisations. Since 1999 its activities have raised awareness about the key challenges of constitutional reform, and it is regarded by both the government and civil society as a coalition that initiated dialogue of contentious issues, including a model constitution.

## 1.6. RESOURCES

This sub-section examines the resources available for civil society organisations in Nigeria. Table III.1.6 summarises individual indicator scores. The average score for this sub-dimension is 1.3. Over the years, CSOs have expanded their capacity in human, financial, organisational and technological resources. Qualified professionals have begun to work closely with CSOs, which has then attracted newly qualified university students. The increasing realisation that this sector offers a good salary has continued to attract qualified individuals. Access to computers and the internet have provided useful links to the international world through which they are able to access funding from foreign donors. Although a substantial number of people are employed in the civil society sector, data regarding the size and the monetary value of remuneration is not easily available.

**Table III.1.6: Indicators Assessing Civil Society Resources**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>1.6.1</u>	Financial resources	<u>1</u>
<u>1.6.2</u>	Human resources	<u>2</u>
<u>1.6.3</u>	Technical and infrastructural resources	<u>1</u>

### 1.6. 1 Financial Resources

This indicator examines the financial resources available to civil society in Nigeria. Access to adequate financial resources to sustain CSO activities is a key concern. For instance, there was a common concern during the RSCs regarding CSOs agendas and how donor-driven they have become, which reflects the heavy dependency on external donors. In the last few years, international NGOs based in Nigeria have easier access to funding than local CSOs. The financial situation of CSOs is compounded by the absence of government funding, a source

that could redress the existing resource gap. Although the possibility of exploring this source has been raised, it is yet to be pursued seriously.

Not surprisingly, 70% of the RSCs respondents share the view that financial resources available to CSOs are inadequate, while 21.4% agreed that financial resources are rather inadequate. Only 10% of the respondents agreed that available resources are adequate.

#### *1.6.2 Human Resources*

With respect to skills among CSO staff, the challenge is not as daunting, given that several CSOs have been able to attract skilled students and academics drawn from local universities. The majority of respondents in the RSCs (52.4%) noted that adequate skills exist among CSO workers. Despite this, there is a growing concern and challenge for CSOs. In recent years, local and national CSOs have been losing skilled manpower to international NGOs because of competitive salaries and benefits offered by the latter. There is also the problem with CSO founders, many of whom dominate CSO activities, which does not expose CSO workers to leadership positions.

#### *1.6.3 Technological Resources/Infrastructure*

Regarding adequacy of equipment, 39% of the respondents indicated that CSOs have adequate equipment, whereas a substantial 50% indicated that equipment is rather inadequate. Such limited technological resources and infrastructure relate to the quantity and quality of what is used and available for CSOs. The technological equipment used is usually old and has not been upgraded to meet current standards.

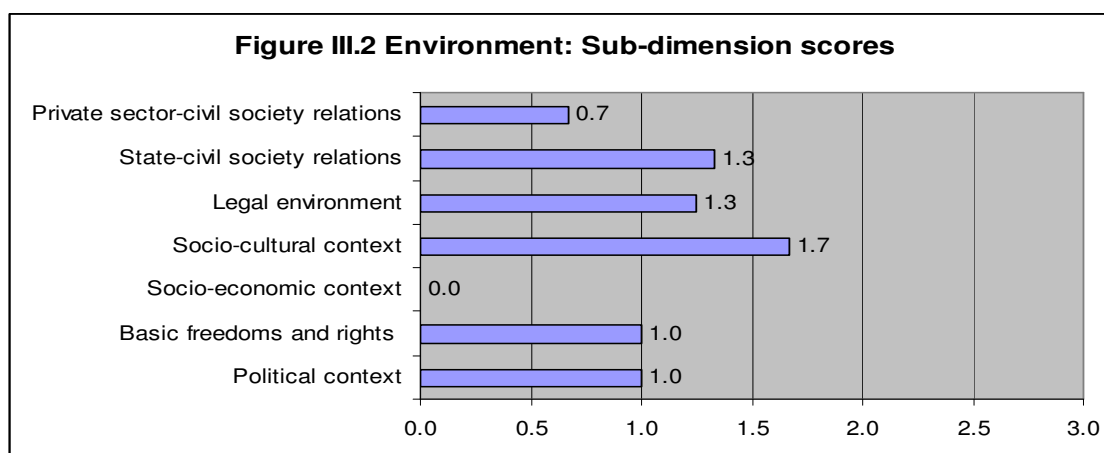
## **CONCLUSION**

The analysis of the Structure Dimension of civil society in Nigeria demonstrates that a significant proportion of citizens are involved in civil society through non-partisan action, charitable giving, volunteerism, and collective communal action. However, it is unclear whether this participation comes from the need to be involved with CSOs or from religious and cultural beliefs that are practiced by most Nigerian citizens. While CSOs in Nigeria have made major efforts to be more inclusive of social groups, persons with disabilities and children unfortunately remain excluded.

On a more technical level, the organisation of civil society is generally weak and lacks self-regulation or appropriate infrastructural support and resources for achieving its goals. Although communication is rather limited within civil society, coalitions and linkages have been formed for common causes and issues.

## 2. ENVIRONMENT

This section describes and analyses the overall political, social, economic, cultural and legal environment of civil society. The score for the Environment Dimension is **1**, indicating a weak and disabling environment for civil society. Figure III.2 presents the scores for the seven sub-dimensions within the Environment Dimension.



### 2.1. Political Context

The political context in Nigeria has improved with the return of civilian rule that follows the constitutional framework. This provided new opportunities for political liberalization and it removed the formal restrictions on the rights of citizens and their organisations. Table III.2.1 examines the different indicators included in this sub-dimension, which rated an average score of 1.0.

**Table III.2.1: Indicators Assessing Political Context**

Reference	Indicators	Score
<u>2.1.1</u>	Political Rights	<u>1</u>
<u>2.1.2</u>	Political competition	<u>2</u>
<u>2.1.3</u>	Rule of law	<u>1</u>
<u>2.1.4</u>	Corruption	<u>0</u>
<u>2.1.5</u>	State effectiveness	<u>1</u>
<u>2.1.6</u>	Decentralisation	<u>1</u>

#### 2.1.1 Political Rights

As already alluded to, the Nigerian Constitution guarantees basic political rights of citizens, including freedom of speech and association, the freedom of conscience and beliefs, the right to associate freely, the right to form and join political parties, and the right to vote and be voted for. While these rights are provided for and guaranteed in the Constitution, the observance and practice of these rights is at times undermined.

With regard to political rights, the Freedom House Report (2006)<sup>20</sup> rated Nigeria as a 'partially free' country, indicating that there are still some poor conditions. Elections in

<sup>20</sup> Freedom House Report (2006) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom\\_in\\_the\\_World\\_\(report\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_in_the_World_(report))

Nigeria have been difficult and have faced the following challenges: election rigging, ballot box stuffing, and hijacking of used ballot boxes as seen in the 2003 and the 2007 elections. There are fears expressed in Nigeria that democracy cannot survive, and that the elections have no substantive meaning. Moreover, efforts by citizens to protect their political rights are thwarted by corruption, violence, and intimidation from politicians.

Despite these challenges, citizens remain endowed with political rights and have meaningful opportunities for political participation. The Judiciary Branch has played an instrumental role and has maintained integrity in upholding citizen's rights. A recent example of this is the judgement of the Supreme Court reinstating His Excellency Peter Obi, Governor of Anambra State to serve his four-year tenure after being rigged out of his post for three of the four years he should have ruled the state.

### *2.1.2 Political Competition*

The number of political parties is a good indication that Nigeria has made progress in political competition. For instance, three political parties were running during the 1999 and the 2003 elections; in the 2007 elections, however, fifty political parties were registered. Nevertheless, there are a number of challenges that must be addressed with the existing party system and electoral democracy.

A major challenge is the overall weakness of political parties in building and nurturing democracy. Indeed, the majority of the parties in Nigeria lack ideological distinction and a solid institutional foundation. More often than not, political parties are perceived as electoral machines whose essence is to capture power even if this requires abusing some of the regulatory rules of the electoral process. Political parties also lack internal democracy and the election candidates are usually determined by the political "godfathers", who believe that they have the authority to determine the political atmosphere in local government, and who may also be elected individuals.

The reality is that personalities and ethnic, regional and religious identities provide the platform for canvassing for votes at elections. In turn, there is a very weak culture of opposition politics. This has raised the fear in more recent times that Nigeria faces the strong possibility of becoming a one-party state. This was demonstrated during the 2003 and 2007 elections where most posts, at all level of governance, were returned to the ruling party. Disputes from non-ruling parties were ignored by the Tribunals.

The biggest challenge is the absence of truly independent election management bodies. The Independent National Electoral Commission and the State Independent Electoral Commission (SIECS) are executive bodies where the president and governors respectively appoint party supporters into the leadership positions. Funding for these bodies is also channelled in similar ways. The electoral commissions are highly influenced by the government.

### *2.1.3 Rule of law*

Despite democratic rule, there is little respect for the rule of law and due process, particularly with publicly elected officials. This phenomenon has been depicted as "executive lawlessness".<sup>21</sup> Although human right violations have reduced considerably, especially when compared to the 1990s, elected official at all levels of government do not comply with court orders, while the military and police act with impunity, as demonstrated by the "Apo Six" case. "Apo Six" involved the killing of a young woman and five young men, chased from the Apo district of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and shot by the police in cold-blood in 2005 at Garki district of FCT. The military invasions of Odi in Bayelsa State and Zaki Biam

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<sup>21</sup> Jibrin Ibrahim and Sam Egwu, op.cit.

in Benue State in 2000 and 2001, have raised credibility questions regarding the human rights record of the present civilian administration.<sup>22</sup>

Furthermore, the introduction of Sharia Legal Code in the northern parts of the country has heightened fears among religious minorities, especially Christians and women who are exposed to discriminatory sentences as a result of misapplication of the legal code, as in cases of adultery or extra-marital sex. Frequent reports in the media of abuse of due process and lack of respect for the rule of law remain unaddressed by the government. These incidents demonstrate that the rule of law in Nigeria is not always respected.

#### *2.1.4 Corruption*

An endemic culture of corruption has presented tremendous obstacles to the Nigerian people. The implementation of a market reform policy within the framework of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), which was designed to curb the rent-seeking behaviour of public officials and establish anti-corruption bodies, has not been successful. Transparency International in its Corruption Perception Index (2006)<sup>23</sup> revealed that Nigeria remains one of the most corrupt countries with a numeric ranking of 146 out of 163 countries and a score of 2.2/10.0

Government audit reports have shown that corruption is deeply entrenched at all levels of government, and the situation appears to be much worse in the lower levels of government where institutional frameworks for fighting corruption are non-existent or weak, and citizens' capacity for action severely curtailed.

#### *2.1.5 State Effectiveness*

A common challenge in Africa is ineffective and weak government systems, something largely shared by Nigeria. The Nigerian state is generally perceived as not representing people's interests. For example, economic reforms are often implemented without the provision of social services to alleviate and respond to people's hardship. Social services are inefficient due to the lack of inadequate resources. The state has reduced its willingness to design and implement policies that can address the concerns of the poor and marginalised segments of society. The consequence is that the state suffers a severe crisis of legitimacy and this is exacerbated by the endemic poverty crisis in the country.

#### *2.1.6 Decentralisation*

Nigeria's federal system has continued to suffer from several decades of military rule, which ensured centralisation of power and resources, although there is a plan to decentralise resources from the national to the local level of government. Currently, local government, which is the level of government closest to the people, enjoys 20% of the total of federal collected revenues. However, it is important to note that political elites criticise such transfers and have continuously demanded the establishment of new administrative units. Although the media has published revenue transfer records, the inability of the rural population to develop institutions and mechanisms for monitoring leaders has not maximised the benefits of decentralisation.

## **2.2 Basic Freedoms and Rights**

<sup>22</sup> Human Rights Watch Report (1999) "The Destruction of Odi and Rape in Choba"  
<http://www.waado.org/Environment/Federal Government-Niger Delta/BayelsaInvasion/Responses>;  
 Human Rights Watch (2002) Nigeria: Military Revenge in Benue State: A Population Under Attack.  
 Washington; Human Rights Watch (2001) Jos: A City Torn Apart. Washington.

<sup>23</sup> Transparency International, 2006, Corruption Perception Index (2006) available online  
[www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org).

This sub-section examines the extent to which basic freedoms are guaranteed by law and practice in Nigeria. Table III.2.2 summarises the indicator scores to arrive at an average score of 1.0. Discussions and consultations at the NAG level show that basic rights and freedoms included in the constitution are frequently violated.

**Table III.2.2: Indicators Assessing Basic Rights And Freedoms**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>2.2.1</u>	Civil liberties	<u>1</u>
<u>2.2.2</u>	Information rights	<u>1</u>
<u>2.2.3</u>	Press freedom	<u>1</u>

### *2.2.1 Civil Liberties*

Despite the provisions on civil and political liberties in the 1999 Constitution, civil liberties are frequently curtailed in Nigeria. In comparison to other African countries, Nigeria has a stronger protection of civil liberties. For instance, workers enjoy the right to join unions and have used unions to challenge unpopular policies of the government, such as fuel prices. However, government has curtailed these liberties through major labour legislation in 2004/2005.

Additionally, abuse of citizens' rights and impunity on the part of the police and the army is common. This has happened in the numerous cases of police/army involvement in quelling civil disturbances and the numerous cases of ethno-religious and sectarian violence such as seen in Kaduna in 2001, Jos in 2001 and Kano in 2004, to mention a few examples. Similarly, the right of the opposition to organise is severely undermined. For example, in 2006, President Obasanjo limited the opposition's ability to hold meetings. In incidences like this, the government has repeatedly applied the Public Order Act to legitimise the restrictions on the activities of the opposition.

### *2.2.2 Information Rights*

There is no recognition of information rights in Nigeria. The "Official Secrets Act" is used to deny citizens and their organisations access to basic information that would enhance their engagement with governance issues. The Freedom of Information Bill which civic groups have been pushing for the past six or seven years was refused assent by the President even after both the Senate and the House of Representatives passed it in April 2007.

### *2.2.3 Press Freedoms*

Despite prolonged military rule, Nigeria has one of the most vibrant press/media sectors in Africa. The return of the constitution ensured greater respect of press freedom as is evident in the decline of incidences of closure of media houses by the government, although occasional harassment of privately owned media houses continues. Most recently, the government has threatened to close African Independent Television (AIT). A major challenge to all of this is that the legal and policy environment that would encourage the proliferation of community radio does not currently exist.



## 2.3 Socio-economic Context

This sub-section analyses the socio-economic situation in Nigeria. Table III.2.3 summarises the indicator score with a sub-dimension average score of 0.

Since the 1980s, the Nigerian economy has been on a perpetual decline. Until the recent debt relief provided by the Paris Club, Nigeria's external debt stood at about \$39 billion. There is widespread poverty in the country, where more than 40% of the people live on less than \$2 a day. Poverty levels worsened with the pursuit of neo-liberal reform policies. Although the country has not experienced a civil war since 1967, ethno-religious conflicts of a low intensity nature have continued. This has resulted in mass internal displacement. The United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are over 250,000 displaced persons on an annual basis. The UNDP Human Development Index also demonstrates that there are high levels of illiteracy, infant and maternal mortalities and low life expectancy. The situation has been worsened by the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

**Table III.2.3: Indicators Assessing Socio-Economic Context**

Reference	Indicator	Score
2.3.1	Socio-economic context	0

### 2.3.1 Socio-Economic Context

To examine the socio-economic environment of Nigeria, eight indicators were selected: 1) Poverty; 2) Civil war; 3) Severe ethnic or religious conflict; 4) Severe economic crisis; 5) Severe social crisis; 6) Serious socio-economic inequities; 7) Illiteracy, and 8) Lack of IT infrastructure. To measure each indicator, specific benchmarks were created. The findings for these eight indicators are presented below.

*(1) Widespread poverty: Do more than 40% of Nigerians live below the poverty line?*

High poverty levels are a major challenge to CSOs activities. Although reliable data on poverty is difficult to obtain, the World Bank (2000) estimated that around 70% of Nigerians live below the international poverty line of \$1 per day.<sup>24</sup> Poverty levels vary according to the region, for example, the northern parts of the country have the highest poverty levels in Nigeria. Regardless of its regional differentiation, poverty is highest among women and rural dwellers. Poverty levels have risen to historically unprecedented levels because of several decades of economic decline and the absence of social safety nets during market reforms.

*(2) Civil war: Did the country experience any broad-scale armed conflict during the past 5 years?*

Nigeria has not experienced a broad-scale conflict that can be considered a civil war in the past 5 years. However, tensions among different social groups continue and at times violent conflicts result, for example, between the Yorubas and the Hausas in Lagos and the Ibadan city of the South-West region; and between the Hausas and the Tivs in Makurdi, North Central Nigeria.

<sup>24</sup> World Bank Development Indicators 2000

*(3) Severe ethnic or religious conflict: Did the country experience a severe ethnic or religious conflict?*

Since the early 1990s, Nigeria has witnessed several ethno-religious conflicts. Identity-based conflicts have occurred, and they are often related to the economic conditions and difficulties in Nigeria. For example, resource scarcity has been a major source of the dispute. Stemming from this, some social groups have requested local power, citizenship, and self-determination. These violent clashes have often resulted in massive internal displacement of the population.

The Northern part of Nigeria has been most affected by these types of conflicts. Apart from the ethno-religious conflicts which affected Zango Kataf in southern Kaduna in the 1990s, Kaduna metropolis has experienced numerous religious conflicts leading to massive displacement of the civil population.<sup>25</sup> Other northern cities such as Kano, Zaria and Maiduguri have witnessed similar patterns of conflict. The worst affected area, however, is the “Middle Belt” of Nigeria which is dominated by ethnic minorities such as Tivs, Jukuns, Idomas, and the Mumuye. For example, the city of Jos, initially known for its long harmonious history was engulfed in a major ethno-religious conflict in 2001.<sup>26</sup> Additionally, self-determination groups such as the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDVF), and Oodua’s People’s Congress (OPC), have posed major threats to democratic rule in Nigeria.

*(4) Severe economic crisis: Is the external debt higher than the GNP?*

As noted earlier, as a result of bad economic planning and policies, Nigeria has faced a severe economic crisis. A consequences of this is that Nigeria has accumulated very high debt. In 2006 Nigeria’s debt was around 10.4% of GNP. Although Nigeria’s debt portfolio is much lower than its GNP, high debts have prevented the government from investing in social services. Prior to negotiating debt relief with the Paris Club, Nigeria’s external debt stood at \$39 billion. However, Nigeria was granted a debt relief package of about \$100 million after the talks. A combination of Nigeria’s high population, estimated at around 140 million, and the high levels of poverty that exist, have resulted in a huge natural resource gap. It is for this reason that Nigeria was granted debt relief, even though it did not fall under the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) category. It is expected that with the negotiations at the Paris Club, the economic situation in Nigeria will improve and poverty alleviation measures will be strengthened.

*(5) Severe social crisis: Has the country experienced severe social/economic crisis?*

A serious social crisis in Nigeria is the high level of people infected with HIV/AIDS, estimated at approximately 3.5 million people.<sup>27</sup>

*(6) Severe socio-economic inequities: Is the Gini index higher than 0.4?*

High levels of corruption and bad governance have resulted in severe social inequalities among the population . As noted earlier, Nigeria has high levels of poverty and is ranked 159 out of 175 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index Report (2006).<sup>28</sup> Over 70% of Nigerians live below the international poverty line of US \$1 a day, of which 40% live in conditions of extreme poverty. The average income of Nigerians is \$260, with indications

<sup>25</sup> See for example, Festus Okoye (2001) *The Impact of Ethnic and Religious Violence in Nigeria*. Kaduna: Human Rights Monitor; Okwudiba Nnoli, ed. *Communal Conflicts and Population Displacement in Nigeria*. Enugu: Pancrep Books.

<sup>26</sup> Samuel Egwu (2004) *Ethnicity and Citizenship in Urban Nigeria: The Jos Case; 1960-2004*. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, School of Post-Graduate Studies, University of Jos.

<sup>27</sup> World Bank Development Indicators 2000

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Human Development Index Report (2006).

that poverty levels have risen as the numbers of poor people rose from 28.1% in 1980 to 65.6% in 1996 and then went down to 54% in 2004. Lastly, Nigeria's Gini co-efficient is at 0.443, indicating a fairly unequal society.

*(7) Illiteracy: Is adult illiteracy higher than 40%?*

Another major social challenge in Nigeria is the high level of illiteracy, with an estimated 57% of Nigerians being illiterate. According to Education For All (EFA)'s Global Monitoring Report (2006)<sup>29</sup> male adult literacy is 74.4%, and for adult females it is 59.4%.

*(8) Lack of IT Infrastructure: Are there less than 5 hosts per 10,000 inhabitants?*

Relative to the population of the country, the IT infrastructure is grossly inadequate and this is more acute in semi-urban and rural areas.

## 2.4 Socio-cultural context

CSOs operate within the socio-cultural norms of Nigeria. However, it is important to recognise that not all of these norms are supportive of or enabling for CSOs and their activities, and in fact, some are detrimental to the work of CSOs. This section examines the extent to which socio-cultural norms and attitudes in the selected states are supportive or non-supportive of the activities of the CSOs. Areas of particular concern in this regard are trust, tolerance and public spiritedness. The average score for this sub-dimension is 1.7. Table III.2.4 outlines the individual indicator scores.

**Table III.2.4: Indicators Assessing Socio-Cultural Context**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>2.4.1</u>	Trust	<u>2</u>
<u>2.4.2</u>	Tolerance	<u>1</u>
<u>2.4.3</u>	Public spiritedness	<u>2</u>

### 2.4.1 Trust

This indicator examines the extent to which members of society trust one another. Findings show that there is a general sense of trust among members of the society, but that there are different degrees of trust. The majority of respondents (57%) maintained that one cannot be too careful when dealing with other people, while the remaining 43% noted that most people can be trusted. The low levels of trust can be attributed to the high rates of corruption and crime that are being reported by the media.

The variations across the regions are also quite revealing. For example, the majority of people in Imo (89%) would be careful when dealing with other people, while in Cross River State the majority of the respondents (67%) feel more inclined to trust most people. In Oyo and Sokoto, these views are not as extreme as in the other two areas.

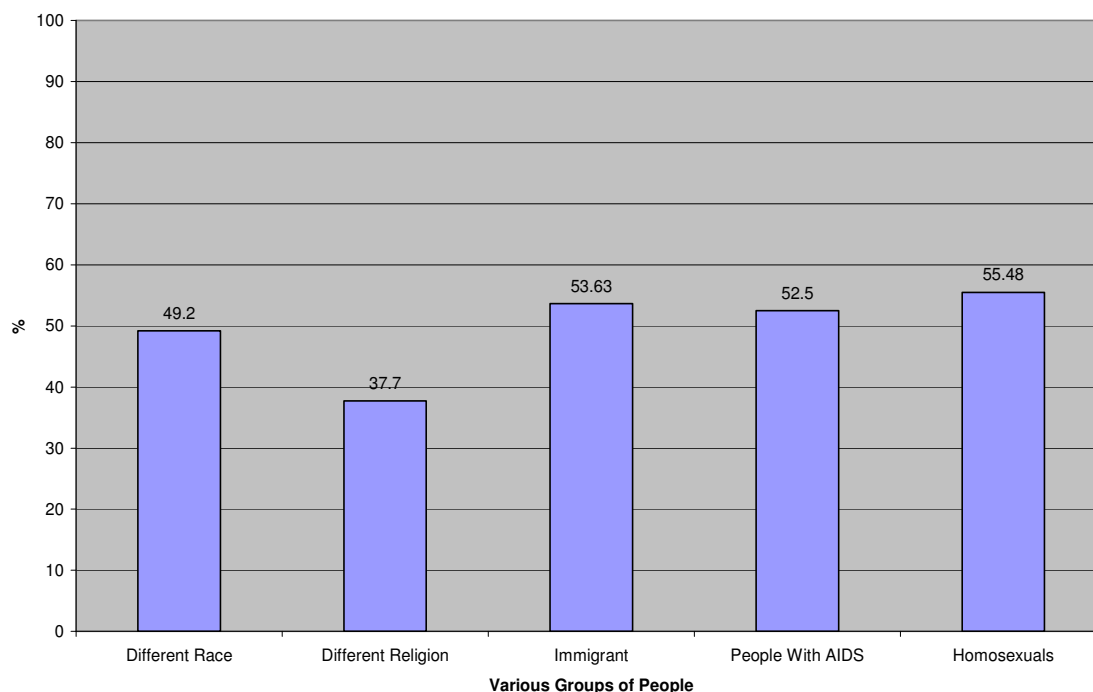
### 2.4.2 Tolerance

This indicator assesses how tolerant members of society are towards people of a different race, religion, ethnicity, immigrants, people with HIV/AIDS, and homosexuals. Overall, findings demonstrate that there is strong unwillingness to live together with people of certain groups. To measure this indicator, we created a Tolerance Index ranging from 0 (high

<sup>29</sup> Education For All (EFA)'s Global Monitoring Report (2006).

tolerance) to 5 (high intolerance). The Tolerance Index for Nigeria is 2.2, which indicates a low level of tolerance, as demonstrated by Figure III.2.4.2.

**Figure III.2.4.2 - InTolerance Levels for various groups as neighbours**



With respect to race, 49.2% of respondents mentioned that they would not like to have people of another race as neighbours, while 37.7% of respondents would not really want to have people of another religion as neighbours. The question of religion is quite controversial in Nigeria, and has historically manifested in religious crises between the two main religions of Christianity and Islam.

Additionally, 53.63% of respondents would not like to have immigrants as neighbours, while 52.5% would not like to have people living with AIDS (PLWA) as neighbours. Recently, there have been some campaigns raising awareness against the stigmatization of PLWHA, but this is still in its early stages.

The most rejected social groups are homosexuals, where 55.48% of respondents would not like to have homosexuals as neighbours. For the most part, homosexuality is considered taboo in Nigerian culture. Nevertheless, the findings show that there are some variations of this level of intolerance among the different areas. For example, in Sokoto state, there seems to be some indifference in relation to homosexuality, where 26% of the respondents mentioned it as a concern compared to Imo state, where 89% of the respondents did.

#### *2.4.3 Public Spiritedness*

This indicator examines how strong the sense of public spiritedness is among members of civil society. Public spiritedness is defined as the attitude that citizens have towards the violations of certain public norms. Examples of this would include: how acceptable is it for people to avoid a fare on public transport, cheating on taxes, or claiming illegitimate government benefits. Overall the findings show that there is a high level of public spiritedness in Nigeria. Table III.2.4.3 and Figure III.2.4.3 summarise the main findings.

Figure III.2.4.3 - Extent of Public Spiritedness Among Nigerian Population

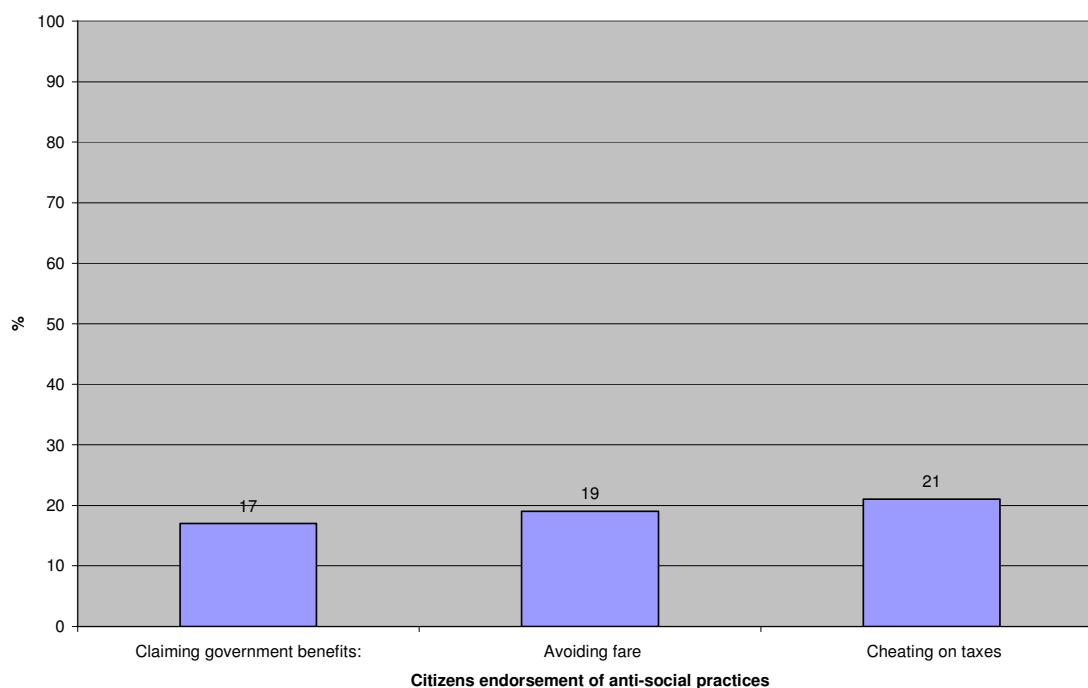


Table III.2.4.3: Extent of Public Spiritedness

	Claiming government benefits	Avoiding fare	Cheating on taxes
Always	3%	4%	3%
Sometimes	14%	15%	18%
Never	83%	81%	79%

High level of corruption permeate the Nigerian society. Most people tend to see politicians as corrupt opportunists who are only interested in themselves rather than in the common good. The limited trust of government officials has affected the level of public spiritedness in the country. In turn, many respondents were of the view that if politicians are able to cheat and get away with it, then so should ordinary citizens.

Other sources have confirmed that there is a high level of tax evasion and avoidance among Nigerian citizens. A plausible reason for these contradictory responses is that people might think that the research being conducted was associated with the government, thus they want to appear to be law-abiding citizens.

## 2.5. Legal Environment

This sub-section describes and analyses the extent to which the existing legal environment is enabling or disabling to civil society. The average score for the sub-dimension is 1.3; each individual indicator is listed in Table III.2.5. The central questions posed in this section are:

Do CSOs face particular legal obstacles? Which legal factors are conducive to the effective functioning of CSOs? Issues related to CSO registration, acceptance of advocacy campaigns, and tax exemption are also examined in this sub-section.

**Table III.2.5: Indicators assessing legal environment**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>2.5.1</u>	CSO registration	<u>1</u>
<u>2.5.2</u>	Freedom of CSOs to criticise the government	<u>1</u>
<u>2.5.3</u>	Tax laws favourable to CSOs	<u>3</u>
<u>2.5.4</u>	Tax benefits for philanthropy	<u>0</u>

### *2.5.1 CSO Registration*

This indicator examines the registration procedures and processes of CSOs. Questions include: How simple, quick, inexpensive, and consistently applied is the process of registering CSOs? Are the procedures following the legal provisions? It is difficult to make general statements regarding the registration procedures, since CSOs follow different patterns. For instance, several community-based organisations follow a simple registration process with the Ministry for Social Welfare. However, this type of registration does not give CSOs legal status even though it does recognise their operations within the CSO sector. The more visible NGOs who may need to access donors or which have a national scope are required to register with the Corporate Affairs Commission as non-profit and non-political organisations. Overall, both processes are cumbersome and expensive, and require the assistance of lawyers. Until very recently, registration was only available in the Corporate Affairs Commission offices in Abuja. Legal services were also provided at this Commission.

Furthermore, the responses from the RSCs describe the difficulties with the registration process. For example, when asked whether the procedure for registering CSOs is quick or not, 90% of the respondents noted that it is not quick. Similarly, 90% of the respondents did not consider the process simple. When asked if legal provisions are followed in the process of registration, 78% of the respondents admitted that legal provisions are followed, and 90% of the respondents also noted that they were consistently applied. In terms of how expensive the procedure is, 70% of respondents noted that it is not expensive to register a CSO in Nigeria.

### *2.5.2 Allowable Advocacy Activities*

Findings from both the NAG meeting and the RSCs demonstrate that there are no major legal restrictions for CSOs advocacy activities. However, subtle threats by the government do occur, which can be considered a form of restriction. The RSC findings demonstrate that 37% of respondents agreed that some restrictions exist, while 14% of the respondents said minimum restrictions exist. Another 31% of respondents, however, did not think that restrictions exist. Although it is hard to point to restrictions either in the law or in practice, it is obvious that the government is uncomfortable with CSOs' criticisms. Once a CSO is known for its critical stance, it will be under strict government control and regulation. In some cases, these "critical" CSOs have received visits from state security services for private meetings.

### *2.5.3 Tax Exemption*

CSOs in Nigeria are exempt from company and allied taxes, and pay 'Pay As You Earn' (PAYE) and Value Additional Tax (VAT). This is because CSOs are recognised by law as non-profit and non-political organisations. However, the law requires that members of the

CSO do not share profits or income accruing to the organisation. This status is enjoyed by all voluntary organisations as well as faith-based groups.

#### *2.5.4 Tax Benefits for Philanthropy*

There are presently no tax benefits for philanthropy in Nigeria, largely because philanthropy is not recognised as a means of responding to the challenges of development and poverty in the country. Individual Nigerians and organisations who engage in philanthropic gestures do so out of concern for the vulnerable, and neither public law nor the existing tax system encourages charitable giving to individuals and organisations through tax concessions. Companies may, however, treat donations as part of their pre-tax expenses.

## **2.6. State-civil society relations**

This sub-section describes and analyses the nature and quality of the relations between the state and civil society. More specifically, it looks at the level of autonomy, dialogue and support from the state. The average score in this dimension is 1.3. Individual scores for the indicators are listed in Table III.2.6.

**Table III.2.6: Indicators Assessing State-Civil Society Relations**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>2.6.1</u>	Autonomy of CSOs	<u>2</u>
<u>2.6.2</u>	Dialogue between CSOs and the state	<u>2</u>
<u>2.6.3</u>	Support for CSOs on the part of the state	<u>0</u>

#### *2.6.1 Autonomy*

For the most part, CSOs have enjoyed a high degree of autonomy from the state. However, there is a major concern that the autonomy of CSOs may be curtailed by government legislation and the establishment of new government institutions. According to the RSC findings, 24% of the respondents agreed that government rarely controls CSOs; 50% of respondents were of the view that the government attempts to control CSOs. However, this should not be taken as government having a ‘grip’ on CSOs. Rather, it is a reflection that there are occasional outbursts of some government functionaries on the need to regulate activities of CSOs. There is the need to also consider the report that there is no legislation in place to regulate the activities of CSOs. 9% of the respondents indicated that the government frequently controls CSOs. As suggested by the RSCs responses, government agencies do have occasional outbursts in efforts to regulate CSOs activities.

#### *2.6.2 Dialogue*

To a large extent the government appears reluctant to recognise CSOs as partners in promoting democracy, good governance and development. Although the government has appointed specific advisors on civil society matters, regular channels of consultation do not exist. This means that there are no institutionalised rules of engagement between the state and CSOs, and this limits the exchange of ideas, channels of communication, and information flow. However, on a number of occasions the government has consulted with CSOs on certain social and political programmes. In the run-up to the 2003 elections, for example, the presidency initiated a forum for dialogue with CSOs to explore areas of partnership. In

addition, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has a forum of dialogue with CSOs. Similarly, the National Assembly consults with CSOs on issues of budget monitoring and tracking.

However, there is a perception that CSOs which have stronger dialogue with the government are considered favourable allies. For instance, it was believed that the way in which government nominated representatives of CSOs in the National Political Reform Conference (NPRC) without due consultation was to ensure that critical voices within civil society were removed from the debates.

According to RSC data, 13% of the respondents suggested that channels of communication are non-existent, while 47% of the respondents noted that limited channels exist. Another 43% of the respondents indicated that moderate channels of communication exist.

### *2.6.3 Cooperation and Support*

Despite the growing government recognition that partnership with CSOs is necessary in order to deal with the multiple challenges of democracy, development, and good governance, government funding is not readily available to CSOs. At local level, however, CSOs and government have collaborated on key issues, such as HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns, budget tracking, and civic education.

CSOs that receive subsidies from the state are perceived by other CSOs to have lost their credibility. The allegation is rooted in the belief that ‘the piper dictates the tune’. Additionally, some state departments do give minimal subvention to CSOs registered with them in recognition of their challenges and to support their work (e.g. the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs). Even then, government support for CSOs remains insignificant compared to other sources of funding available to CSOs, giving rise to current agitation by civil society against the current budgetary support by donors. In this light, there is some interest on the part of CSOs to oppose the shift among many donors towards only bilateral aid.

## **2.7. Private Sector-Civil Society Relations**

This sub-section examines the relationship between the private sector and civil society. This relationship is very underdeveloped, with little interaction, dialogue, or co-operation exists between the two. The total average score for this sub-dimension is **1**. Individual indicator scores are outlined at Table III.2.7.

**Table III.2.7: Indicators Assessing Private Sector-Civil Society Relations**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Score</b>
<u>2.7.1</u>	Private sector attitude to civil society	<u>1</u>
<u>2.7.2</u>	Corporate social responsibility	<u>1</u>
<u>2.7.3</u>	Corporate philanthropy	<u>0</u>

### *2.7.1 Private Sector Attitude*

In general, the underlying values of CSOs are in conflict with those of the private sector. The Regional Stakeholder Consultations identified a negative attitude towards CSOs activities. Indeed, a substantial 50% of the respondents considered the private sector to be indifferent towards CSOs, while only 22% of the respondents felt the private sector has a favourable attitude. Moreover, 48% of the respondents suggested that business associations rarely participate in their activities, with another 38% admitting that they participate sometimes.



### 2.7.2 Corporate Social Responsibility

In recent years, groups around the world have mobilised around issues related to corporate social responsibility. In light of this new interest, many companies have been forced to acknowledge their responsibilities to the communities in which they operate. This indicator examines how developed the notions and actions of corporate social responsibility are in Nigeria.

The Niger Delta case study demonstrates the lack of corporate social responsibility among oil companies in the context of ongoing environmental degradation problems. In contrast, major oil companies operating out of the Cross River State are concerned about the social and environmental impact of their operations. One reason for this regional disparity is that oil companies have come under scrutiny in recent years and have been forced to make some changes. In this regard, they have been working more closely with the communities they work in and have built better relations with them.

However, in the regional stakeholders' consultations, there was a general consensus that private sector actors have little or no concern regarding the social and environmental consequences of their actions. Indeed, 23% of the respondents perceived that their concern is insignificant, while 51% expressed the belief that they have limited concern, and 26 % of the respondents were unsure.

### 2.7.3 Corporate Philanthropy

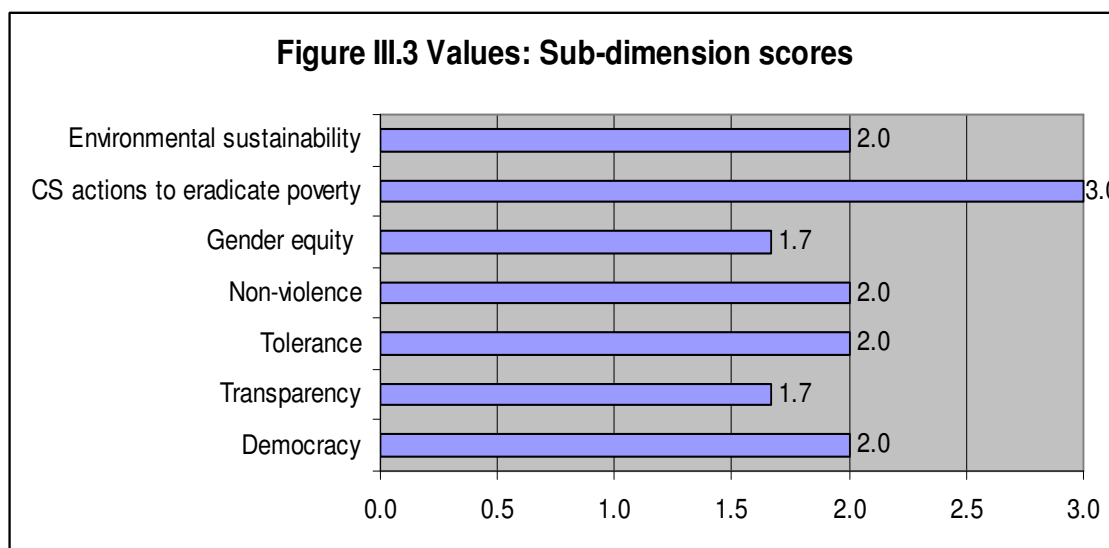
The range of CSOs that receives support from the private sector is too narrow to be considered a significant source of funding. However, there are examples of this kind of support, such as bank funding for HIV projects or companies that provide their products in support of CSO activities, for example, Cadbury providing its *bourrvita* drinks at children's events.

## Conclusion

Overall, the Environment Dimension is one of the more challenging aspects of CSO work and activities. The political context is quite restrictive and generally corrupt. There is a general lack of respect for the rule of law and basic rights and freedoms. Many of these fundamental rights are subject to frequent violations. In particular, press freedom and information rights indicators are relatively weak. In addition, the socio-economic context shows high levels of poverty, ethnic-religious tensions, and high illiteracy. The state-civil society relations and private sector-civil society relations are also relatively weak, which creates further challenges for the environment condition. The only favourable environment condition for civil society is the exemption from tax enjoyed by registered civil society organisations.

### 3. VALUES

This section describes and analyses the values promoted and practiced by Nigerian civil society. The score for the Values dimension is 2. Figure III.3.1 presents the scores for the seven sub-dimensions within the Values dimension.



#### 3.1 Democracy

This sub-section examines democratic practices and values within CSOs. The average for this sub-dimension is 2.0. Table III.3.1 summarises the scores for the various indicators. There is a tendency to assume that CSOs will follow democratic practices and values, but this is not always the case. During the NAG meetings and RSC, stakeholders noted the importance of having democratic CSOs that are not only expected to contribute to the establishment and upholding of democracy in the society at large, but also to promote and advance democratic values within their own organisations.

**Table III.3.1: Indicators Assessing Practice And Promotion Of Democracy**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>3.1.1</u>	Democratic practices within CSOs	<u>2</u>
<u>3.1.2</u>	Civil society actions to promote democracy	<u>2</u>

##### *3.1.1 Democratic Practices Within Csos*

This indicator assesses the extent to which CSOs uphold democratic practices within their own organisations. In particular, it looks at how much control members have over the decision-making process and how leaders are selected. The overall findings are presented in Figures III.3.1.1a and III.3.1.1b.

Figure III.3.1.1a looks at how leaders are selected. In sum, the findings demonstrate that the majority of the stakeholders (47.1%) were of the view that selection of leaders is by election, while 24% of the respondents were of the view that they were appointed. However, some NGOs in Nigeria have been experiencing the ‘founder syndrome’, whereby founders take

leadership roles and fail to build the capacity for their staff which is a major challenge to the leadership of CSOs.

**Figure III.3.1.1(a) Democratic Practices within CSOs**

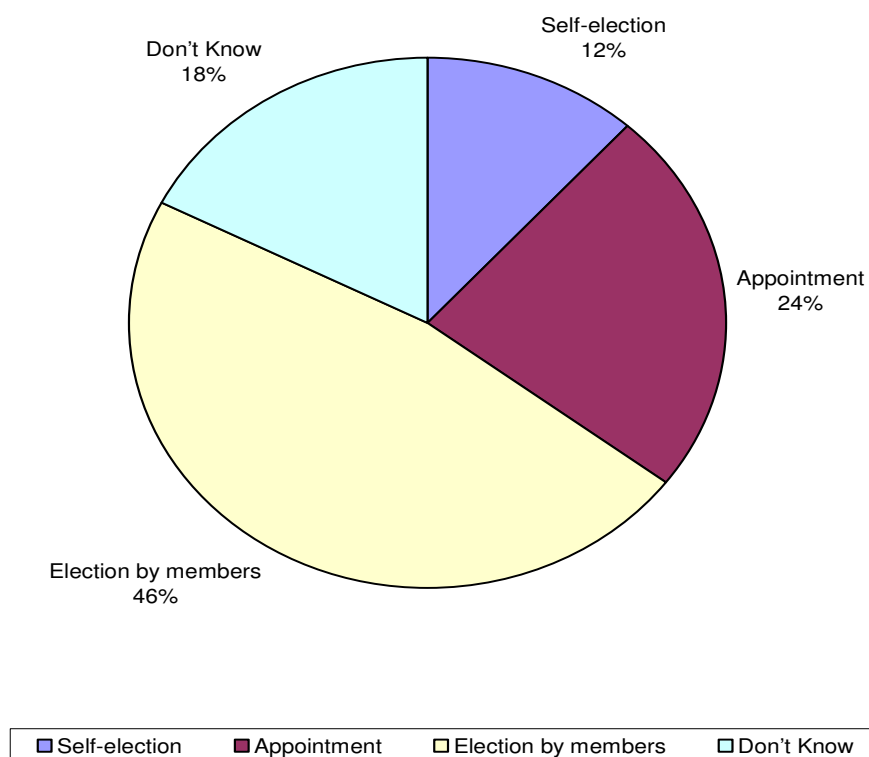
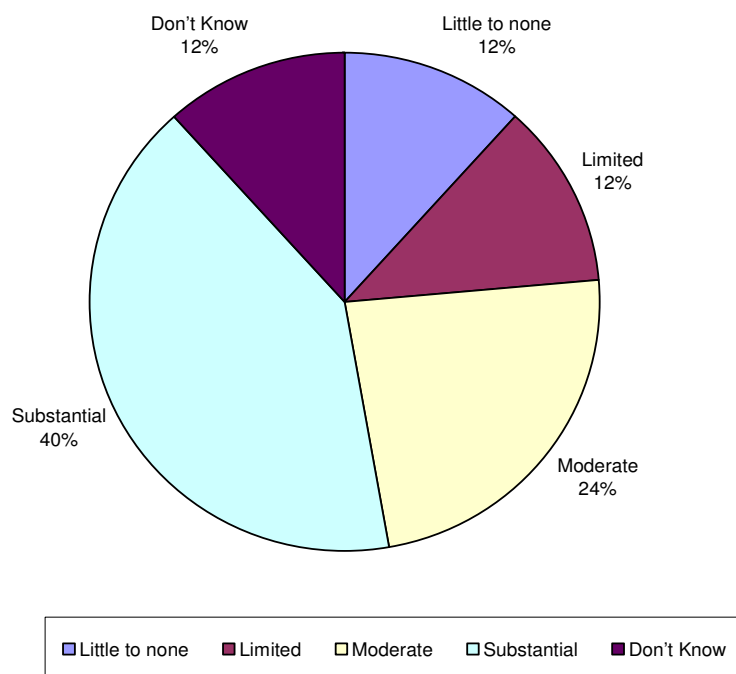


Figure III.3.1.1b examines the extent to which CSOs members have influence over the decision-making process. Findings from the RSCs show that 41.1% the respondents were of the view that civil society members have substantial influence in decision-making. Additionally, a little over one-fifth of the stakeholders were of the view that CSO members have moderate influence in the decision-making process. This demonstrates that there are reasonable levels of internal democracy within CSOs.

**Figure III.3.1.1b - Stakeholders' Perception of the extent of CSOs' members influence in decision-making**



### *3.1.2 CS Actions To Promote Democracy*

RSC respondents felt that CSOs have undertaken several activities to support democracy. While 23.5% of the respondents admitted that several examples can be cited, another 35.3% admitted that they could only point to one or two examples. Meanwhile, 11.8% of the respondents could cite many examples, while 29.4% of the respondents claimed that they did not know of any examples.

With regard to the promotion of democracy, 70.6% of the respondents noted that CSOs have made a moderate contribution, while 17.6% considered the role of CSOs to be significant. Additionally, 5.9% of the respondents considered the significance of CSOs to be limited, while another 5.9% claimed they did not know. This is not entirely surprising, considering the visibility of several coalitions and networks in campaigns aimed at supporting and deepening democracy in Nigeria. Apart from the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), Citizens' Forum for Constitutional Reform (CFCR), Electoral Reform Network (ERN), and Campaign for Democracy (CD), there are several other groups that have emerged and joined efforts against extending the tenure of the President in 2006, known as the Civil Society Coalition Against Third Term.

## **3.2. Transparency**

This sub-section examines the extent to which civil society actors practice and promote transparency. It focuses on corruption within CSOs, government transparency, and CS

actions to promote transparency. The average score for this sub-dimension is 1.6, and the individual indicator scores are listed in Table III.3.2.

**Table III.3.2: Indicators Assessing Transparency**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>3.2.1</u>	Corruption within civil society	<u>2</u>
<u>3.2.2</u>	Financial transparency of CSOs	<u>1</u>
<u>3.2.3</u>	Civil society actions to promote transparency	<u>2</u>

### *3.2.1 Corruption Within Civil Society*

While corruption exists within civil society, it is not widespread. That being said, it is important to recognise that CSOs have been negatively affected by the general perception of citizens that the Nigerian society is highly corrupt. The majority of the respondents (64.7%) admitted that instances of corruption in civil society organisations are occasional, while according to 23.5% of the respondents they are very rare. Only 5.9% of the respondents expressed the feeling that instances of corruption are very frequent. The findings demonstrate that incidences of corruption exist within CSOs, but that they are not as pervasive as the general corruption within the country.

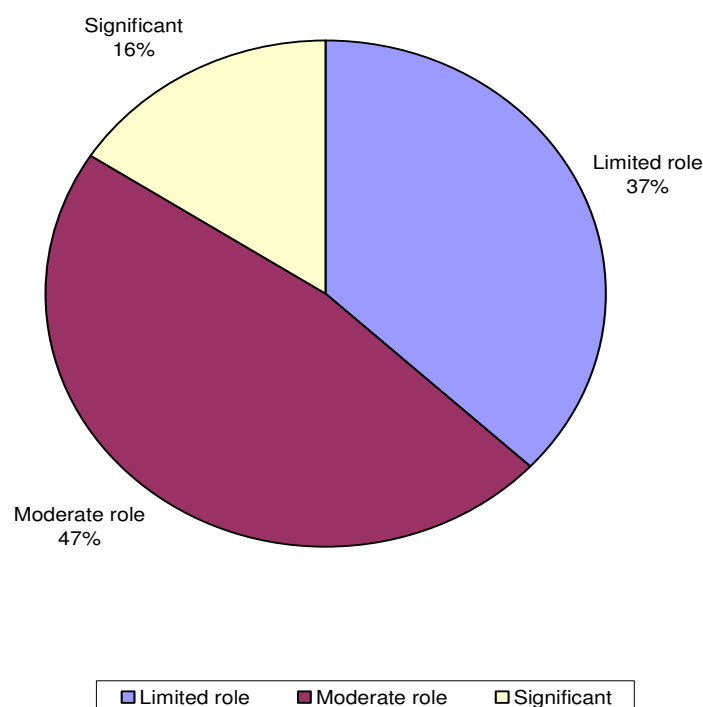
### *3.2.2 Financial Transparency Of CSOs*

Consultations and discussions regarding the financial transparency of CSOs indicate a low level of financial transparency. This is particularly true of organisations that have weak governance structures and where there are no institutionalised procedures for guiding the decision-making processes. Although it is difficult to know exactly how many CSOs make their financial accounts publicly available, the RSCs respondents maintained that a significant number of CSOs do not make their financial records public. Legal requirements to file annual financial returns are not adhered to, and there are threats from the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to de-register organisations, both for profit and non-profit, which have failed to do so. CSOs are now beginning to have audited accounts, but this is largely a result of donor pressure.

### *3.2.3 CS Actions To Promote Transparency*

This indicator examines the extent to which CSOs actively promote transparency. According to the CSI research, 41.1% of the respondents were of the view that civil society engages in some activities to promote government transparency. However, 41.2% of stakeholders indicated that CSOs are limited in this regard, while 35.3% of the stakeholders considered their role to be moderate. An additional 17.6% of the stakeholders consider CSOs role to be significant. Figure III.3.2.3 presents these findings.

With respect to corporate transparency, about 41.2% of the stakeholders noted that CSOs do some promotional activities in this area, while 41.1% of the respondents considered the role of CSOs to be moderately significant.

**Figure III.3.2.3 - CS engagement to promote government transparency**

### 3.3. Tolerance

This sub-section analyses the extent to which civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance. More specifically, it looks at tolerance within the CS arena and CS actions to promote tolerance in society at large. The average score for this sub-dimension is 2.0 and Table III.3.3 examines the individual indicator scores.

**Table III.3.3: Indicators Assessing Tolerance**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>3.3.1</u>	Tolerance within the civil society arena	<u>2</u>
<u>3.3.2</u>	Civil society actions to promote tolerance	<u>2</u>

#### 3.3.1 Tolerance Within The Civil Society Arena

In the Nigerian context, tolerance issues are most applicable in terms of ethnic and religious groups. The findings show that 47% of the respondents (the majority) believe that CSOs are generally tolerant, while 35.3% of the respondents maintained that there were a few incidences of intolerance. However, only 17.6% of the respondents could cite one or two examples of intolerance. This information is summarised in Table III. 3.3.1.

**Table III.3.3.1: Stakeholders' Perception in Relation To Discriminatory Or Intolerant Forces Within Civil Society**

Perception category	Percentage
Intolerant forces dominate Civil Society	-
Intolerant forces form a significant part of civil society	-
Intolerant forces are isolated within civil society	17.6
Intolerant forces are isolated and stigmatised within civil society	35.3
Don't Know	47.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.3.2 CS Actions To Promote Tolerance

In general, civil society promotes and upholds an arena of tolerance. CSOs are active in denouncing intolerance and their role in promoting this is widely recognised and acknowledged by society at large. For example, several CSOs under the umbrella of the Civil Society Coalition on HIV and AIDS in Nigeria (CISCHAN) are involved in advocacy work aimed at addressing the stigmatization of People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA), while several others are involved in peace-building and conflict resolution in communities torn apart by ethno-religious conflict and violence.

According to the RSCs, 29.4% of the respondents could point to several examples of campaigns, activities, and programmes aimed at promoting tolerance, while another 23.5% of the respondents could cite at least one or two examples. Meanwhile, 29.4% of the respondents claimed they did not know of any particular initiative.

Furthermore, 41.2% of respondents assessed the role of CSOs in promoting tolerance as moderate, while 23% rated it as significant. By contrast, 11.8% said it was limited, and the rest did not know.

## 3.4 Non-violence

This sub-section with an average score of 2.0 describes and analyses the extent to which civil society practices and promotes non-violence within the civil society arena. Table III.4.4 summarises the respective scores.

**Table III.3.4: Indicators Assessing Non-Violence**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>3.4.1</u>	Non-violence within the civil society arena	<u>2</u>
<u>3.4.2</u>	Civil society actions to promote non-violence	<u>2</u>

### 3.4.1 Non-Violence Within The Civil Society Arena

Although the majority of CSOs do not use violence as a way of expressing or achieving their interests, there are a few instances in which CSOs have resorted to violence in the public sphere. The results of the stakeholders' survey are summarised in Table III.3.4.1.

About 53% of the stakeholders observed that isolated groups within civil society occasionally or regularly resort to violence. The majority of the stakeholders (58.8%) claimed that such acts of violence are usually or always determined by other actors outside civil society. A further 29% of the stakeholders claimed that use of violence is extremely rare.

The use of violence is observed and more rampant among self-determination groups. Instances of violence involving these groups are widely reported in the media, although the reports are mostly debunked by those involved.

The common perception among CSOs is that violence is not a means of expressing their interests or positions. About 36% of the respondents expressed the view that aggression, hostility and brutality are isolated incidences, while another 26% of respondents claimed that these are extremely rare occurrences. When violence is used, over 45% of the respondents expressed the opinion that it is usually denounced by other CSOs.

**Table III.3.4.1: CSOs perception regarding use of violence**

Degree of use of violence	Percentage
Significant and mass based groups	5.9
Isolated groups regularly resorting to violence	17.6
Isolated groups occasionally resorting to violence	35.3
Use of violence is extremely rare	29.4
Don't Know	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

#### *3.4.2 Civil Society Actions To Promote Non-Violence*

This indicator examines the extent to which civil society actively promotes non-violence. According to 60% of the stakeholders, CSOs engage in activities that promote non-violence, while 29% of the stakeholders claimed they did not know of any specific activity. To a large extent, the role of civil society in promoting non-violence is moderately significant, as claimed by about 70% of the stakeholders. Additionally, 23.5% of the respondents noted that the significance of CSOs action in this way is limited.

### **3.5. Gender Equity**

This sub-section examines the extent to which CSOs practice and promote gender equity. Gender equity is not only pursued within the civil society in terms of employment and recruitment into leadership, but is also practiced within the organisation as a whole. Numerous women's groups have been involved in the campaigns for Affirmative Action, violence against women, and constitutional reforms that would have more favourable gender conditions. Table III.3.5 shows the individual scores for the indicators, with a sub-dimension average of 1.7.

**Table III.3.5: Indicators assessing gender equity**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>3.5.1</u>	Gender equity within the civil society arena	<u>2</u>
<u>3.5.2</u>	Gender equitable practices within CSOs	<u>1</u>
<u>3.5.3</u>	Civil society actions to promote gender equity	<u>2</u>

#### *3.5.1 Gender Equity Within The Civil Society Arena*

This indicator examines the extent to which the civil society arena promotes gender equity. More specifically, this indicator looks at the opportunities for women to be leaders and the degree of fairness and equality that women enjoy within the organisations. The findings point to a reasonable degree of gender equity within the CS arena. For instance, 52.6% of the stakeholders were of the view that discriminatory practices against women are either limited or very limited within CSOs. This implies that women are given equal opportunities and are



treated fairly. However, when discriminatory practices exist, the majority of the stakeholders (52.9%) could not say whether they are publicly denounced by CS actors. Moreover, a little over one-fifth of the stakeholders claimed such forces are rarely denounced publicly where they exist. Based on these findings, it is apparent that when discrimination does exist, it is difficult to denounce it. It is also worth noting that, although the structure of leadership in the CSOs is heavily skewed against women, sexism is not tolerated.

### *3.5.2 Gender Equitable Practices Within CSO*

The findings show that CSOs have clear policies and programmes that promote gender equity. For instance, a significant 46% of the respondents could think of civil society campaigns and actions aimed at promoting gender equity in the preceding year; another 16% of the respondents could think of many examples, and 19% of the respondents noted that they could think of one or two examples.

### *3.5.3 CS Actions To Promote Gender Equity*

CSOs have a major interest in promoting gender equity for a number of reasons. First, gender equity policies are a key requirement for accessing international funding and resources. Second, democratic governing systems within CSOs have made the development of explicit gender policy a necessity. Indeed, an overwhelming 76.5% of the RSC respondents admitted that they could give one or two examples where CS has promoted gender equity in society at large; 58.8% of the respondents noted that CSOs actions in this regard are significant, while 17.6% described the role of CSOs as moderate.

## **3.6. Poverty Eradication**

This sub-section examines the extent to which civil society promotes the reduction of poverty in society. Table III.3.6 shows the scores for the indicators of this sub-dimension which averages 3.0. CSOs have been involved in poverty eradication through various activities and programmes. For example, many NGOs and CBOs have developed micro-credit schemes, offering training in the management of small-scale enterprises, and providing access to credit for rural producers.

**Table III.3.6: Indicator Assessing Poverty Eradication**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>3.6.1</u>	Civil society actions to eradicate poverty	<u>3</u>

### *3.6.1 CS Actions To Promote Poverty Eradication*

Poverty eradication is included in several of the CSOs activities and programmes. A substantial number of these activities and programmes emerged in response to the hardships that followed from the economic crisis and the recent reforms adopted by the government. Recently, under the aegis of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), the government has made some efforts to combat poverty. However, most people view this as a failure with a limited impact on the people at the grassroots level where 90% of Nigerians remain poor. One of the major challenges of NAPEP has been their location; they are currently city-based with little connection to local level governments. By contrast, CSOs' direct links with the 'poorest of the poor' through partners and CBOs (although some may have their offices located in cities) have proved to be more successful and more accessible to the poor. An example of this is the ActionAid Nigeria connections with Partnership Against Poverty (PAP) which has extensive contact in the field.

In addition, there is also a wide recognition that endemic poverty could threaten the sustainability of the democratic regime. In this regard, it must be mentioned that coalitions have been formed to bring CSOs together to fight poverty. The Civil Society Coalition on Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE), and the Pro-Poor Governance Network are only two examples among several others. Other initiatives include micro-credit programmes, business opportunities, and vocational training, particularly with women.

Around 43% of the RSC respondents could think of one or two examples in the preceding year of CSO programmes and actions to fight poverty, while another 25% of the respondents could recall several examples. With regard to CSOs' overall effectiveness in this sector, 65% of the respondents noted that CSO activities in this area are significant, while another 20% believed that the role of CSOs is moderate.

### 3.7. Environmental Sustainability

This sub-section examines the extent to which civil society exercises and promotes environment sustainability in Nigeria. Table III.3.7.1 shows the scores of the indicators of this sub-dimension which averages 2.0. Environmental issues and concerns have been largely expressed on a regional basis by different civil society organisations.

For instance, over 90% of NGOs focus on environmental issues located in the Niger Delta region, where the activities of oil companies have created a huge environmental crisis. However, issues related to desert encroachment and erosion in other parts of the country have not resulted in a proliferation of organisations. Other active CSOs include the Environmental Rescue Organisation and Oodua for Nature Conservation from the South-West region.

**Table III.3.7: Indicator Assessing Environmental Sustainability**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>3.7.1</u>	Civil Society actions to sustain the environment	<u>2</u>

#### *3.7.1 CS Actions To Sustain The Environment*

Several CSOs have emerged specifically to respond to the challenges of environmental degradation and sustainability. The RSCs findings demonstrate that CSOs have an active role and impact in this area. For example, 38% of respondents could recall one or two activities where CSOs were active in environmental protection. Moreover, 27% of the respondents could mention several as well as many examples of environmental campaigns. In the Niger Delta region, where environmental issues are most pronounced, organisations like Environmental Rights Agenda (ERA) and Friends of the Environment are prominent.

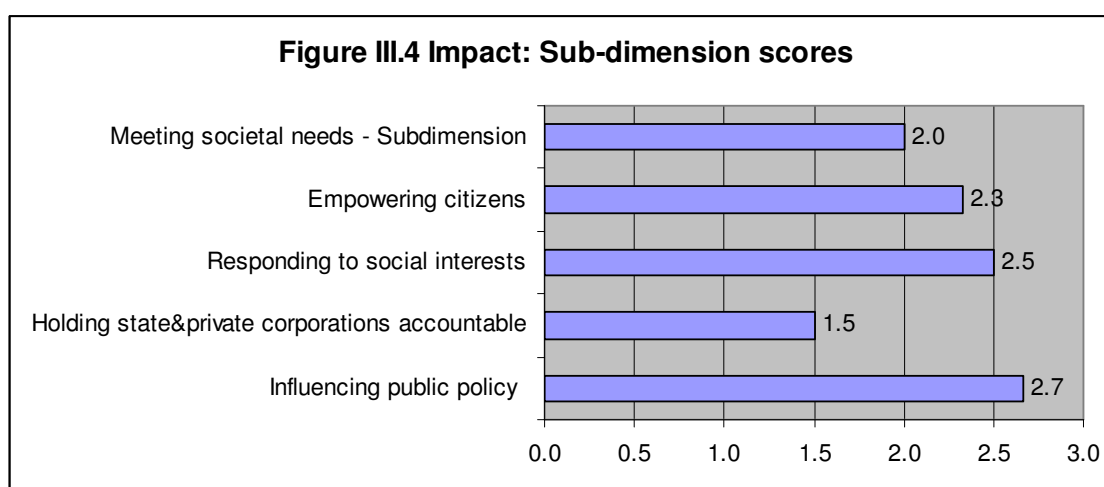
### Conclusion

With an average score of 1, civil society in Nigeria demonstrates a relatively low score in the values dimension. Areas of strength include the human rights achievements during the military era culminating in the return to democracy in 1999. Transparency, tolerance, non-violence, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability are all values that CSOs actively promote and uphold, although there remains room for improvement in these areas.

## 4. IMPACT

This section examines the impact of CS actions and activities in various dimensions. It also examines how active and successful CSOs have been in fulfilling several essential functions, including public policy influence, holding state and private corporations accountable, responding to social interests, empowering citizens, empowering marginalised people, and meeting societal needs. The average for the Impact Dimension is **2.2**, reflecting a moderate impact. Figure III.4 presents the scores for the five sub-dimensions within the Impact Dimension.

The findings in this section are based on interviews with key informants conducted in four zones of the country – Kaduna, Jos, Enugu and Ibadan. These interviews involved members of the academia, civil society activists, government officials, and media officials.



### 4.1 Influencing Public Policy

This sub-section describes and assesses the extent to which Nigerian civil society is active and successful in influencing public policy. Table III.4.1 summarises the respective indicator scores. The average for this sub-dimension is 2.7.

In Nigeria, engagement with the state has become very critical for CSO as this permits them to influence policy. More often than not, influencing and changing public policies resulted in disagreements and tensions between CSOs and the government. Some of the major areas of public policy impact include constitutional reform, health (HIV/AIDS), women equality, child law, human trafficking, and electoral reform. However, for the purpose of this Country Report the role of CSOs in three key policy areas will be examined – child labour, human trafficking, and national budgeting processes.

**Table III.4.1: Indicators Assessing Influence On Public Policy**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>4.1.1</u>	Human rights	<u>3</u>
<u>4.1.2</u>	Public policy	<u>3</u>
<u>4.1.3</u>	Civil Society's impact on national budgeting	<u>2</u>

#### 4.1.1. Human Rights

### Case Study #1: Child Labour

Child labour is a major social problem in Nigeria. Children are commonly exploited and forced to work to supplement family incomes and livelihoods. Child labour is most common among low income groups, although it varies between the different regions. The most obvious and immediate consequence is that the child is unable to access education, which hinders his or her development.

CSOs working on human rights and children's rights issues have built sufficient knowledge and expertise in this area. In turn, these CSOs have built partnerships with the government which has enacted an important legislation, the Child Rights Law, prohibiting child labour. So far, the legislation has been passed in 11 states of the Federation.

According to the RSCs, 46% of the respondents noted that CSOs have played an active role in passing the Child Rights Law, while 36% of the respondents perceive that CSOs have been very active on this issue. Furthermore, in relation to the level of influence, 40% of the respondents were of the view that CSOs have been very successful, while 30% believed that they have been successful, and 30% of the respondents agreed that CSOs have been somewhat successful. Based on these findings, it could be suggested that the existence of a legal framework to protect children has been successfully created due to the advocacy and activities of CSOs. Additionally, most of the key informants noted that CSOs have won considerable legitimacy in promoting human rights and good governance. However, they strongly expressed the view that state actors and elected public officials need to recognise CSOs as partners for meaningful impact.

#### *4.1.2 Social Policy*

### Case Study #2: Human Trafficking

The existence of a major human trafficking problem in Nigeria has been acknowledged. People involved in the human trafficking business will export young men and women across Nigeria's borders for purposes of prostitution and related forms of exploitation. CSOs have responded to this through advocacy campaigns, demanding that a human trafficking policy be passed. According to the RSCs, 80% of respondents admitted that CSOs have tried to influence public policy on this issue. When evaluating the impact of CSOs in this area, 56% of the respondents agreed that they have been successful, and 22% of the respondents agreed they have been somewhat successful. The recent media reports on the arrest and prosecution of people involved in human trafficking is indicative of the moderate level of success. Furthermore, the establishment of the National Agency for the Prohibition in Trafficking of Persons is also an indication of the level of influence of civil society.

#### *4.1.3 Civil Society's Impact On National Budgeting*

### Case Study # 3: National Budgeting Process

The monitoring of the national budget is viewed as an important process tied to accountability and poverty issues. In light of this, CSOs have been active in monitoring the budget process. For instance, CSOs have established networks and coalitions, such as the Budget Law and the fiscal responsibility initiative to help monitor the process. CSO efforts have strengthened the new structures and institutions for transparent budgeting within the framework of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). CSOs are also working with the legislature to develop inclusive budget laws at national and regional levels, and are training community-based groups to engage the budget process at the local level. Recent activities by civil society include participating in the;

- The Budget Office on the Medium Term Sector Strategies processes;

- Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs for Debt Relief Gains;
- The Virtual Poverty Fund and Monitoring Capital Projects.

Despite these numerous initiatives, it is still too early to evaluate the effectiveness of CSOs in the national budgeting process, since they have only been active in this area since 2003. This view was strongly corroborated by the key informants in Kaduna, Jos, Enugu and Ibadan, who noted that the current advocacy work of CSOs in transparency and anti-corruption campaigns can serve as a catalyst in working more closely with the national budgeting process. Although most of the interviewees expressed the view that few CSOs were involved in the engagement with the national budget process, the work being done was critical for the process. However, this is the case more at the national than at the local level.

## 4.2 Holding the State and Private Corporations Accountable

This sub-section looks at the impact that CSOs have in holding the state and private corporations accountable. The average score for this sub-dimension is 1.5, and the individual scores for the indicators are summarised in Table III 4.2.

**Table III 4.2. Indicators Assessing Holding State And Private Corporations Accountable**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>4.2.1</u>	Holding the state accountable	<u>2</u>
<u>4.2.2</u>	Holding private corporations accountable	<u>1</u>

### 4.2.1 Holding State Accountable

CSO activities during the struggle against authoritarian rule have considerably improved their capacity to hold the state accountable. One of the interesting findings that emerged during the CSI process is that CSOs are more successful in holding the state accountable at the national than at the local level.

This indicator asks the following questions: Does civil society demand state transparency? Does it seek to increase the availability of information about government performance? Does it denounce violations of citizens' rights? Does it monitor public expenditure and the implementation of government policy objectives? Does it denounce state corruption? Does it demand rectification of government misdeeds? Finally, has it developed clear benchmarks for monitoring government performance?

According to the RSCs, 54% of the stakeholders admitted that CSOs are somewhat active in holding the state accountable, while 15% felt that CSOs have been inactive. Furthermore, 63% of the respondents rate the performance of CSOs in this regard as somewhat successful.

CSOs have been quite active at promoting transparency in the extractive industries (such as private oil companies) and in making the Federal Ministries advertise available contracts in the 'Tenders Board Journal'. In 2001, the Electoral Reform Network led a campaign which resulted in the open rejection of the 2001 Electoral Act, which had been fraudulently amended by the Executive without the approval of the Legislature.

### 4.2.2. Holding Private Corporations Accountable

Holding private corporations accountable is important to a number of CSOs. In industrial regions, like the Niger Delta, private corporations and their lack of accountability has become a key concern. Another example is the threat presented by the Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company. A collaborative effort by CSOs threatened to boycott the company's products if they refuse to pay compensation to parents of children deformed or killed while the company was testing some of its products in the Kano State in 1997.

According to the RSCs, 40% of the respondents viewed CSOs as somewhat active in this area, while 38% felt that CSOs were not active at all. When it comes to the effectiveness of these actions, the perceptions of the regional stakeholders follow a similar trend: 47% of the respondents believe that CSOs have been somewhat successful, while 35% hold the view that CSOs have been unsuccessful.

### 4.3. Responding to Social Interests

This sub-section analyses the extent to which Nigerian civil society is active and successful in holding the state and private corporations accountable. The sub-dimension has an average of 2.5, and Table III.4.3 summarises the individual indicator scores.

**Table III.4.3: Indicators Assessing Response To Social Interests**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>4.3.1</u>	Responsiveness	<u>3</u>
<u>4.3.2</u>	Public trust in CSOs	<u>2</u>

#### 4.3.1 Responsiveness

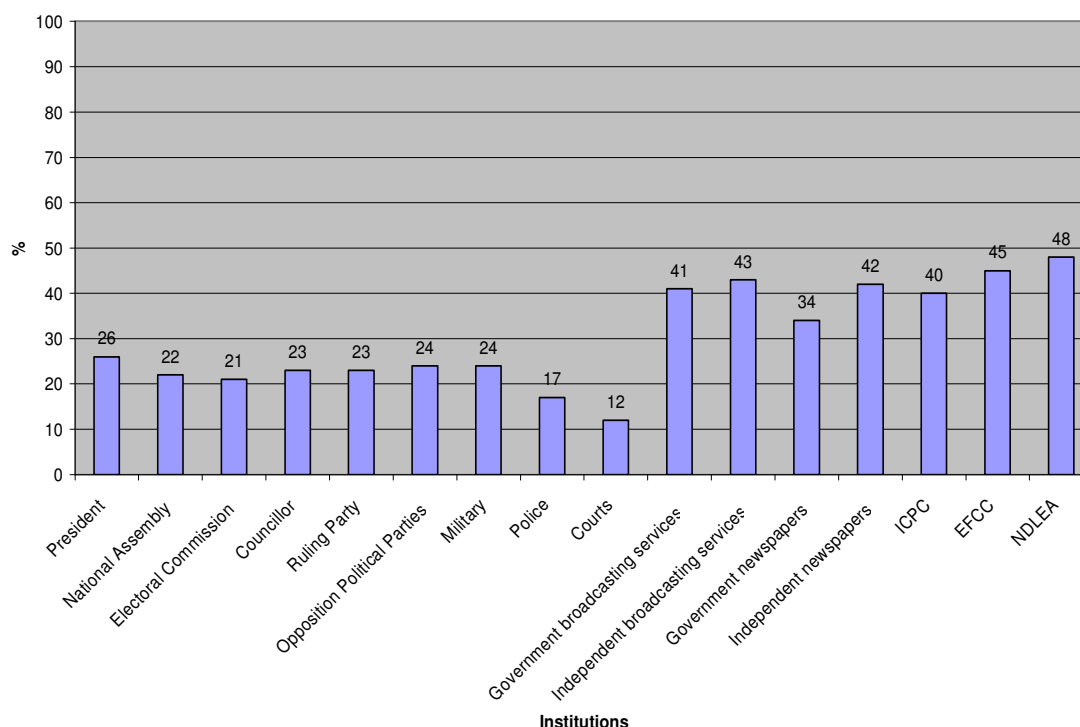
CSOs are generally perceived to be responsive to social needs and concerns. In particular, CSOs have been involved with issues related to poverty, illiteracy, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, environmental degradation and threats to Nigeria's nascent democracy. The findings show that CSOs' work is being recognised by society at large. For instance, 89% of respondents admitted they could think of specific examples of CSOs providing relevant services to the population. Some of the successful examples noted by the respondents include provision of micro-credit programmes for women, building networks and coalitions of women at local level to encourage participation in governance, provision of home care and support for PLWHA, and the promotion of civic awareness on voting and mandate protection.

#### 4.3.2 Public Trust

This indicator examines the proportion of the population that has trust in civil society actors, compared to public and private institutions. In all discussions and consultations that occurred during the CSI project, CSOs were referred to as public-spirited actors. Findings demonstrate that the majority of respondents (68%) have trust in CSOs, although this data includes political parties within CSOs. If we exclude political parties, then the percentage of those who have trust in CSOs increases to 80% of the respondents. The most trusted CSOs are the churches (80%), NGOs (76%), and labour unions (51%), while only 35% have trust in political parties. Outside of civil society, the least trusted public institution is the police (31%).

Additionally, the AfroBarometer Survey in Nigeria (2005)<sup>30</sup> measured levels of trust towards various institutions and organisations. The results are summarised in Figure III.4.3.2. However, it is important to note that apart from the media and political parties, other civil society groups are not included in the survey.

Figure III.4.3.2 - Public Trust in Institutions



#### 4.4. Empowering Citizens

This sub-section describes and assesses the extent to which Nigerian civil society is active and successful in empowering citizens, especially with traditionally marginalised groups. Empowering citizens involves the following activities: demanding rights, working with institutionalised structures to provide services and infrastructures, skills acquisition, building sustainability and economic empowerment. The overall average for this indicator is 2.3 and Table III.4.4 summarises the individual indicator scores. Empowering citizens is a core activity for CSOs, which have provided training and raised awareness and consciousness of marginalised groups to enable them to initiate desired changes, and then defend and sustain these changes.

Table III.4.4: Indicators Assessing Empowerment Of Citizens

Reference	Indicator	Score
4.4.1	Informing/ educating citizens	3

<sup>30</sup> AfroBarometer Survey in Nigeria (2005) Compiled by Practical Sampling International. Responses ranged from Not at all, Just a little, Somewhat, A lot, Don't know/haven't heard. The current results are for those who chose somewhat and a lot.

<u>4.4.2</u>	Building capacities for collective action and resolving joint problems	<u>2</u>
<u>4.4.3</u>	Empowering marginalised people	<u>3</u>
<u>4.4.4</u>	Empowering women	<u>2</u>
<u>4.4.5</u>	Building social capital	<u>2</u>
<u>4.4.6</u>	Supporting/ creating livelihoods	<u>2</u>

#### *4.4.1 Informing/Educating Citizens*

The Community Survey findings indicate that civil society plays an important role in informing and or educating citizens, and that there are a few examples of significant impact. Given that the government has been ineffective at raising awareness among its citizens, most people have learned to rely on informal information channels and CSO apparatus. About 51% of Community Survey respondents claimed that CSOs had conducted activities to educate community members, especially on issues related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, child abuse, trafficking, and vocational activities. However, slightly less than half of the respondents attended or participated in such programmes.

Additionally, a number of local NGOs, supported by external donors, have contributed immensely to capacity-building in the past few years. For instance, they have sensitized community members about their rights and promoted linkages among them to form alliances around specific problems. Some examples include advocacy groups for good governance and democracy, accountability and transparency, and budgets.

#### *4.4.2 Building Capacity For Collective Action*

Building citizen's capacity for collective action is central to civic engagement and therefore of civil society. According to the Community Survey data, 62% of respondents knew of CSOs initiatives taking place in their community to promote collective action, but only 30% participated in these initiatives. Interestingly, the results are higher in the states of Imo and Cross River, where 85% and 83% of respondents respectively participated in collective action initiatives. One reason why these statistics are much higher in these areas is due to the oil resources and the involvement of communities in trying to control the negative environmental effects.

#### *4.4.3 Empowering Marginalised People*

Children, women, ethnic and religious minorities, as well as the physically disabled people are often marginalised from the Nigerian society. CSOs have made lots of efforts at mobilizing these groups and making them more active in the decision and policy-making processes. For instance, several CSOs have been working with these groups in the constitutional reform process. This initiative is particularly important given that the Constitution was handed down by the last military regime and was not representative of Nigerian citizens. More specifically, several CSOs have been involved in the national budget-tracking process, and have particularly focused on gender issues.

According to the Community Survey, 25% of respondents knew of CSOs' activities aimed at supporting the poor in their communities, and 20% of these respondents had participated in these activities. Additionally, findings from the RSCs reveal that civil society plays an important role in empowering marginalised groups. In fact, 63% of respondents were of this opinion and were able to cite examples of success stories. Although there are major problems related to poverty, which requires a systematic approach aimed at addressing the fundamental causes of poverty, the activities of CSOs in empowering poor people had proved



to be quite successful. The impact of these activities seem to have been most effective in Sokoto and Oyo states where 77% and 89% of the respondents respectively noted the success of CSOs' activities in this regard, compared to 49% and 35% in Imo and Cross Rivers states respectively.

#### *4.4.4 Empowering women*

This indicator examines how active and successful civil society is in empowering women. It examines how significant and widespread civil society's efforts are at empowering women and whether their activities have resulted in measurable impacts. The findings reveal that the number of CSOs involved in women empowerment issues are increasing. It is safe to assume that CSOs have been successful at raising a lot of awareness about women's issues.

In the South-East region, for example, activities of Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) and Women Aid Collectives (WACOL) have led to increased awareness among widow's rights and the elimination of traditional laws regarding widows. These traditional laws are quite harmful towards widows and they include: the deprivation of property, confinement to the home, and widow inheritance to the deceased husband's family members.

At the national level, the activities of women groups have resulted in the proliferation of several women networks and organisations that are engaged in the various facets of democracy. Women groups and coalitions are pushing for the implementation of policies in favour of women and the ratification of key international conventions and treaties, such as, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the African Protocol to the Charter on Human and People's Rights.

#### *4.4.5 Building Social Capital*

The focus of this indicator is on the extent to which civil society build social capital among its members and how levels of trust, tolerance, and public spiritedness of civil society members compare to those of non-members. Statistical data from the Community Survey shows that 61% of the respondents stated that CSOs were successful in building social capital among its members, while 39% of the respondents claimed the opposite. An additional, 51% of the respondents recognised that CSOs have built social capital among its non-members, while 49% of the respondents stated that they have not.

Findings in this regard reveal that in all the selected states of this study, with the exception of Sokoto State, civil society has been successful in building social capital in society. By contrast, findings from Sokoto State show that civil society contributes moderately to building social capital in society.

Interviews with key informants reveal that high level of trust generated between members and CSOs, and between the CSOs and the society, is largely derived because of their representative nature. Additionally, CSOs are also raising issues and making changes to improve the livelihoods of society as a whole.

#### *4.4.6 Supporting Livelihoods*

This indicator examines how active and successful civil society is in creating/supporting employment and/or income generating opportunities. According to the Community Survey, 19% of respondents could identify income-generating activities carried out by CSOs in their communities, only 15% participated in these activities. This indicates that CSOs are only moderately successful in generating and supporting employment opportunities.

## 4.5. Meeting Societal Needs

This sub-section describes and analyses the extent to which civil society is active and successful in meeting societal needs, especially those of poor people and other marginalised groups. The average score for this sub-dimension is 2, and table III.4.5 examines the individual indicator scores.

**Table III.4.5: Indicators Assessing Meeting Societal Needs**

Reference	Indicator	Score
<u>4.5.1</u>	Lobbying for state service provision	<u>2</u>
<u>4.5.2</u>	Meeting urgent societal needs directly	<u>2</u>
<u>4.5.3</u>	Meeting the needs of marginalised people	<u>2</u>

### 4.5.1. *Lobbying for state service provision*

CSOs are increasingly realizing that they are not an alternative to the state, but rather that they act as a ‘watchdog’ of the state. In doing so, they pressure the state to act in the interest of the common good. Lobbying for state service provisions have also been common among government agencies, such as the Environmental Rights Agenda (ERA) which has used this technique in their campaign on Tobacco Control and Media Rights Agenda, which lead to the Freedom of Information Bill.

According to the RSC, 47% of the respondents could identify specific examples of CSOs lobbying the government to provide public services to the population, while 24% of the respondents could not. Furthermore, the impact of such action was seen as successful by 35% of the respondents, while 23% of the respondents thought that they were not. Another 41% were indifferent to the question.

### 4.5.2 *Meeting Needs Directly*

This indicator examines how active and successful civil society is in meeting pressing social needs. It also looks at whether CSOs promote or provide alternative means, outside the state, for communities to raise their level of material development, and whether civil society contributes to the delivery of essential services. Findings in this regard reveal that in Nigeria civil society plays an important role and there are successful examples of these types of initiatives.

According to the Community Survey, 62% of respondents were aware of CSOs’ activities in their communities aimed at addressing social problems. Moreover, 37% of the respondents knew of CSO programmes that aim to help community members solve problems directly, and 30% of the respondents participated in these activities. On a regional basis, findings show that civil society in Oyo, Sokoto, and Cross River states is active in providing essential services, however the highest level of impact is in the Imo State.

Additionally, 43% of the respondents admitted that such activities and services were targeted at the general population, while another 34% pointed to poor communities and households as the main beneficiaries. In terms of success and impact, 51% of the respondents viewed CSOs as successful and 25% of the respondents viewed them as very successful. These activities were generally considered as meeting the needs of the people; in fact, 39% of respondents noted a moderate impact of these activities and 14% of the respondents observed a significant impact.

Moreover, 59% of the RSC respondents admitted that CSOs' services are directed at poor communities and households while 17% of the respondents claimed that it targeted the general population. An additional 6% of the respondents saw that it targeted women, while 12% of the respondents claimed that they focused on other marginalised groups, such as the disabled persons and children.

#### *4.5.3. Meeting Needs Of Marginalised Groups*

This indicator examines the extent to which CSOs are more or less effective than the state in meeting the needs of marginalised groups. According to the Community Survey, 55% of respondents believe that CSOs are more effective than the state in providing services to the population. Moreover, when asked whom did they turn to for assistance in the past 12 months, 54% said they turned to CSOs, 28% to the state, and 18% did not turn to any organisation.

In the four states – Oyo, Imo and Cross River and Sokoto – where the Community Survey research was carried out, the findings suggest that CSOs are significantly more effective than the state, while in Sokoto they are slightly more effective than the state.

## **Conclusion**

The Impact Dimension of Nigerian civil society has an average score of 1.6, demonstrating that civil society is moderately successful in this area. Civil society has been actively involved in influencing public policy, trying to hold the state and the private sector accountable, responding to social interests, empowering citizens, and meeting social needs.

Although there is recognition that CSOs activities have had some positive impact on society, in retrospect their actions are as small as a drop of water in an ocean. Given the size of Nigeria and the diversity of its citizens, it is difficult for CSOs activities to have a large-scale ripple effect throughout the country. A lot of emphasis has therefore been placed on reforming government policies rather than replacing government services through the work of CSOs.

## IV. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The National Workshop examined the CSI findings, reviewed and verified the scores, and identified the strengths and weaknesses of civil society in Nigeria. The National Workshop was attended by over fifty participants from civil society, the media, the public and the private sector, as well as researchers.

The discussions held during the various CSI activities – NAG meetings, Regional Stakeholder Consultations, and the National Workshop – reveal that civil society is active in governance, democracy and development issues. Overall, CSOs have built a legitimate reputation around their projects and activities. The findings also show that civil society is particularly active with excluded and marginalised segments of the population.

### STRENGTHS

According to the CSI findings and the discussions during the National Workshop, CSOs' major strengths are: structure, civic engagement, resources, environment, value, gender equity and public policy. Moreover, the findings show that, amongst others, CSOs have achieved high levels of organisation, harnessed adequate human resources and have a flourishing constitutional and legal environment that can sustain its engagement activities.

#### Structure:

- *High Level of Organisational Skills:* Nigerian CSOs benefit from a high level of organisation. In particular, civil society has successfully mobilised and organised activities with its members.
- *Charitable Giving:* The culture of charitable giving seems to be entrenched in many African cultural beliefs and practices, which are particularly noticeable in Nigeria. In relation to CSOs, this is seen in a strong culture of giving, associational life of people, voluntarism and fundraising abilities.
- *Human Resources:* In comparison with the public sector, CSOs have better access to skilled human resources. This has enhanced the capacity of CSOs to engage at all levels.

#### Environment:

- *Constitutional and Legal Environment:* The constitutional and legal environments for CSOs have improved tremendously since the return to civilian government in May 1999. This is evident in the constitutional provisions of political and civil rights, the entrenchment of multi-party democracy, the passing of the Freedom of Information Bill and the legal recognition of CSO registration, among others. It is important to recognise that many of these conditions were a result of CSOs' advocacy and activities.

#### Value

- *Access to Information:* CSOs have been requesting that the government make information more accessible and available to citizens. In particular, a coalition of CSOs has played a critical role in developing the Freedom of Information Bill that was passed by the National Assembly.

- *Equal Opportunity:* Promoting gender equity has been a priority issue for CSOs, which have developed an advocacy campaign around the inclusion of women in the political sector. This involves adequate representation of women in both elected and appointed posts.

### **Impact:**

- *Ratification of International Conventions:* A significant number of international conventions on human rights, particularly those dealing with children's and women's issues, have been ratified, many of them as a result of effective CSO advocacy and engagement with the government.
- *Partnerships with Government Agencies:* CSOs have built strategic partnerships with government institutions and agencies in critical areas, such as HIV/AIDS and poverty alleviation. Such partnerships have also informed and strengthened the capacity of government institutions to deliver on these issues.
- *Responsiveness to Social Interests:* CSOs have shown tremendous capacity to understand social interests and have engaged government and community members on various issues.

## **WEAKNESSES**

The CSI findings indicate that the main weaknesses of CSOs in Nigeria include competition among CSOs for resources, diversity of representation, a need for capacity-building, low levels of awareness, illiteracy, limited capacity, a low level of public policy impact, and corruption in governance.

### **Structure**

- *Competition and Conflict of Interest:* CSOs have been competing for financial resources because of limited government funding, and as a consequence, conflicts between CSOs have arisen. This has resulted in a low level of collaboration among Nigerian CSOs.
- *Under-Representation of Poor and Indigenous People:* Despite the moderate improvements that CSOs have made with respect to better representation of women in CSOs, the exclusion of poor and indigenous people from leadership and membership of CSOs remains a challenge. The implication of this is that CSOs are not accountable to the interests of poor and indigenous people.
- *Lack of Adequate Skills among CSOs:* Despite the available skilled human resources in Nigeria, a capacity gap is still evident, particularly in relation to advocacy and engagement of CSOs, and also in information technology and the different forms of internal communication.

### **Environment**

- *Gap in Civic Education:* Despite the constitutional improvements, one major challenge has been guaranteeing and manifesting certain rights. This is a result of a number of factors, primarily the limited awareness among citizens that stems from the lack of political education available to the population, and the high levels of illiteracy. These problems are reinforced by the inability of political parties to implement their programmes.
- *Lack of State Support and Partnership:* The relationship between CSOs and the state is largely characterised by suspicion and tension. For the most part, state officials have

viewed CSOs as competitors of power, influence, and legitimacy in the public sphere rather than as partners enhancing development in society.

- *Absence of Environmental Protection:* In general CSOs have not been engaged in environmental issues. Discussions during the National Workshop identified two main factors that have affected this: low level of corporate social responsibility and the failure of state regulatory agencies to enforce environmental laws and regulations.

## **Impact**

### **Public policy**

- *Low Level of Impact of Public Policies:* There is a general concern about the overall impact of CSO activities in public policy, which results from a combination of factors such as a lack of partnership and the absence of adequate funding for CSO activities.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Based on the strengths and weaknesses of the analysis, recommendations to improve the overall performance of CSOs were discussed during the National Workshop. These recommendations, listed below, were clustered into categories and prioritised as follows:
- developing a social charter including a Code of Conduct;
- improving CSOs funding opportunities;
- fostering a people-centred approach to development, policies and activities; and
- strengthening the capacity of CSOs to enhance their policy impact.

### Recommendations for Civil Society

***Develop a Social Charter:*** To enhance the legitimacy of CSOs and their overall capacity in addressing Nigeria's key challenges of governance, democracy and development, CSOs need to develop a Social Charter that would include a Code of Conduct for CSO actors. Given the lack of trust between CSOs and state actors, it is imperative that CSOs develop a Social Charter that outlines the principles and practices of CSOs. These principles and practices would outline each party's responsibilities and limitations as development agents. It would also include rules of engagement of both state and society to address any concerns. In order to develop this, Nigerian CSOs can draw useful lessons from existing national and international social charters such as the Code of Ethics of Nigeria's Lions Club.

***Capacity-Building:*** A priority for Nigerian CSOs is to build better capacity for citizens and CSOs, so that they can engage with state and private sector actors more efficiently. In order to empower citizens, CSOs can have advocacy and sensitization campaigns through the media on CSOs' activities, expected impacts on the society and the ability of citizens to advocate for their rights. Training workshops should be organised for CSOs at the regional and local levels. This would enhance CSOs' capacity to engage the policy process at different levels and encourage a better knowledge of the budget process.

***Diversity Policy:*** Given the under-representation of marginalised groups in Nigeria, including women and the disabled in both CSOs and in government, CSOs need to develop and adopt equal opportunity policies.

### Recommendations on CSO Funding Issues

***CSOs Funding:*** CSOs have difficulty accessing funding and face these challenges with overt interventions from donors. Overcoming these challenges requires that both government and development partners play a central role in establishing a national CSO Trust Fund that would allocate funding at the local level in Nigeria.

### Recommendations on Relationship with the State

***People-Centred Development Policies and Activities:*** For the state and private sector to be more accountable, development policies and activities need to put citizens at the centre of their approaches. The current neo-liberal agenda disempowers the vast majority of the people. For example, the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), which encourages the privatisation of state-owned enterprises, is not conducive to the well-being and the livelihoods of the majority of the population. One way to address this is to re-orientate the development process and ensure the participation of the people when designing and implementing development policies. This would ensure that the voices of ordinary citizens are brought into development programmes.

**Public Policy:** The CSI findings reveal that CSOs are afforded a high level of public trust and, for the most part, are able to meet social needs. Despite this, the Nigerian Government hardly considers CSOs as partners in governance and development issues. Processes are needed to strengthen the relationship between CSOs and the state's strategic programmes. CSOs need to conduct research on policies and their impact, and build stronger networks and coalitions in order to make a greterr impact on public policy.

### **Roles and Approaches of CSOs**

**Empowering Citizens:.** CSOs are aware of both the possibilities for, and limitations of, their activities, in terms of empowerment issues. Central to their advocacy work and engagement with the state, emphasis has been placed on building the capacity of CSOs and citizens to engage the various facets of democratic governance and development. However, one of the major challenges in this type of work is the quality of the organisational linkages at the grassroots level. For example, the failure to successfully mobilise Nigerian citizens to protest against the corruption of the 2007 elections has raised the critical question of their integration with social movements at the local level.



## VI. CONCLUSIONS

Civil society in Nigeria is evolving. The CSI findings demonstrate that, while CSOs have played an influential role in the democratic process in Nigeria, it needs to develop and promote people-oriented development policies and activities in order to live up to expectations. It must also be recognised that a civilian government does not equate to a democratic government. If civil society is going to meet and overcome the current democratic and development challenges, then they need to address some of the challenges within the sector. These include the creation of autonomous programmes that address people's needs rather than programmes that are donor-driven; cultivating democratic practices and values; increasing networking and sharing of information with other CSOs and improving internal governance systems. Most importantly, perhaps, is the need to explore alternative funding sources.

**Figure VI.1: The Civil Society Diamond in Nigeria**

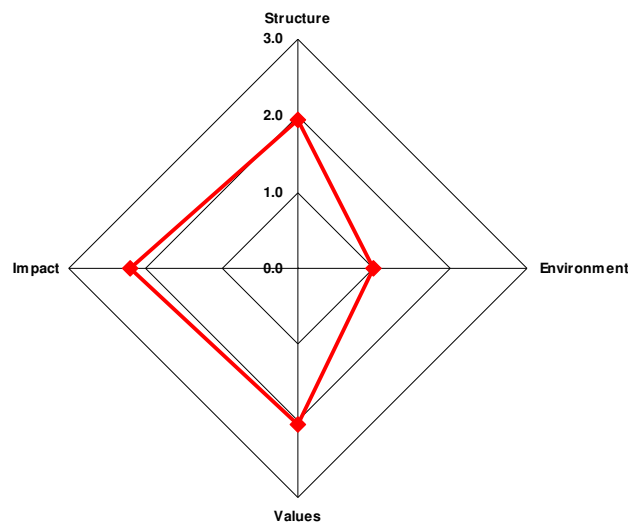


Figure VI.1 presents an overview of the CSI findings. The Civil Society Diamond shows a very skewed civil society in Nigeria with a moderate score. Structure (2.0), Values (2) and Impact Dimensions (2.2), but a weak Environment (1), and this presents a major challenge. To a certain extent, the strong Values and Structure Dimensions demonstrate the strength of civil society in a weak Environment Dimension. Civil society in Nigeria is still able to have some impact through advocacy campaigns and activities and, while there is growing appreciation of civil society by the state, this must be developed further.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Based on the CSI findings and data, CSOs have played an important role on issues related to democracy and development. However, they need to review current development policies and activities, which should be more people-centred. It must also be realised that a civilian government does not necessarily equate to a democratic government, and this has been one of the biggest challenges for CSOs in Nigeria. If civil society groups are to meet the challenges of democratisation and development, they must address a number of problems and constraints, including the creation of autonomous programmes as opposed to donor-driven programmes; cultivating democratic practices and values; intensifying networking and sharing of information within CSOs; improving internal governance mechanisms; and above all, exploring alternative funding sources.

ActionAid Nigeria and DevNet aim to disseminate widely the findings of the CSI project. Both organisations will advocate for stakeholders to take different aspects of the recommendations forward, and will update the information in order to monitor the progress of civil society in Nigeria.

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## **APPENDIX 1: LIST OF NAG MEMBERS**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	Chief (Barr.) Joy Ezeilo	Director, Women Aid Collective
2	Prof. Sam Egwu	Convener, Citizens Forum for Constitutional Reforms (CFCR)
3	Atuonwu Maureen	Chairperson, Nigerian Association of Women Journalists, Enugu State Chapter
4	Daniju Raliat	Executive Director, Ajegunle Community Project
5	Kalla Y.J.U	Fadama II Project
6	Friday Alhassan	Edgegate Foundation, Ayingba, Kogi State
7	Adejor Abel	League of Democratic Women in Nigeria
8	Dr. Sade Taiwo	Center for Enterprise, Development and Action Research, (CEDAR) Ibadan, Oyo State
9	Past. Oji Ugochukwu	Redeemed Christian Church of God
10	Akano Aderemi	Consultant Engineer
11	Dr. Asafa Abdullahi	Dept. of Political Science, Kaduna State Polytechnic
12	Bertram Emeka Ubaka	People With Disabilities Network, PEDANET, Benin City, Edo State
13	Past. Phineas Thandaus	Center for Constructive Criticism, Yola, Adamawa state
15	Oby Nwankwo	CIDRROC, Enugu
16	Comrade Issa Aremu	Deputy President, Nigeria Labour Congress
17	Y.Z. Yau	Center for Information Technology and Development, Kano
18	Barr. Ayo Atsenuwa	Dept. of Law, University of Lagos
19	Dung Pam Sha	Dept of Political Science, University of Jos, Jos
20	Amina Salihi	Special Assistant to the Hon. Minister of Fed. Capital Territory
21	Etim Imisim	Thisday Newspapers
22	Eve Thompson	PACT, Abuja
23	Clement Wasah	Director, Community Action for Popular Participation, CAPP, Abuja
24	Kekere Solomon	Nigerian Textile Union

## **APPENDIX 2: LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED**

### **In-depth Interviews:**

1. Com. Sola Ajisefini, Programme Co-ordinator, Capacity Building/Training
2. Kola Abiodun, Academia (Lecturer)
3. Nike Onibokun, Co-ordinator, Center for Hope, Advocacy/Awareness Raising
4. Innocent Kalu, Executive Director, Cerebral Palsy Nigeria
5. Ayorinde, National Co-ordinator, GASURD (Development)
6. Joseph Sangosanya, Executive Director, Christian Foundation for Social Justice and Equity
7. Dr. Tor Irapour, Executive Director, Youth Adolescent Reflective Centre
8. Dr. Dung Pamsha, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Art and Social Sciences, University of Jos
9. Gopa, Mennonite Committee
10. Akosu, Plateau State Government and Civil Society Liaison Officer
11. Dr. Mijah, Department of Political Science and Defence Studies, N.D.A.
12. Hajiya Rukaya Moukarim, Jama'atu Nasil Islam
13. Ayajime Iorzaan Elijah, Hall Captain, KADPOLY S.U.G.
14. Hajiya Saratu Iya Aliyu, Nigerian Chambers of Commerce
15. Hajiya Bintu Isa, Pathfinders International Nigeria

### **Participants at the Regional Stakeholders' Consultations:**

Attendance List at the RSC in South-East and South-South Regions:

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16	John Maisamari	Christian Youth Association	Gusau, Zamfara State
17	Salamat Ibrahim	National Association of Women Enterprises	Main Market, Sokoto

## **APPENDIX 3: THE CSI SCORING MATRIX**

### **1 – STRUCTURE**

#### **1.1 - Breadth of citizen participation**

**Description:** How widespread is citizen involvement in civil society? What proportion of citizens engage in civil society activities?

##### *1.1.1 - Non-partisan political action*

**Description:** What percentage of people have ever undertaken any form of non-partisan political action (e.g. written a letter to a newspaper, signed a petition, attended a demonstration)?

A very small minority (less than 10%).	Score 0
A minority (10% to 30%).	Score 1
A significant proportion (31% to 65%).	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%).	Score 3

##### *1.1.2 - Charitable giving*

**Description:** What percentage of people donate to charity on a regular basis?

A very small minority (less than 10%).	Score 0
A minority (10% to 30%).	Score 1
A significant proportion (31% to 65%).	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%).	Score 3

##### *1.1.3 - CSO membership<sup>31</sup>*

**Description:** What percentage of people belong to at least one CSO?

A small minority (less than 30%).	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%).	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%).	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%).	Score 3

##### *1.1.4 - Volunteering*

**Description:** What percentage of people undertake volunteer work on a regular basis (at least once a year)?

A very small minority (less than 10%).	Score 0
A small minority (10% to 30%).	Score 1
A minority (31% to 50%).	Score 2
A majority (more than 50%).	Score 3

##### *1.1.5 - Collective community action*

**Description:** What percentage of people have participated in a collective community action within the last year (e.g. attended a community meeting, participated in a community-organised event or a collective effort to solve a community problem)?

A small minority (less than 30%).	Score 0
A minority (30% -50%).	Score 1

<sup>31</sup> This indicator is very popular among academics and is sometimes used as a single proxy for the strength of civil society (Wezel 1999) However, available data on this indicator still has many shortcomings, particularly on a cross-national level (Morales Diez de Ulzurrun 2002). We consciously designed the indicator scores so that they are broad enough to yield a valid score as each of the four scores covers between 20-30 percentage points. We hereby avoid having to measure the exact percentage of CSO members among the population.

A majority (51% to 65%).	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%).	Score 3

## 1.2 - Depth of citizen participation

**Description:** How deep/meaningful is citizen participation in CS? How frequently/extensively do people engage in CS activities?

### 1.2.1 - Charitable giving

**Description:** How much (i.e. what percentage of personal income) do people who give to charity on a regular basis donate, on average, per year?

Less than 1%	Score 0
1% to 2%	Score 1
2.1% to 3%	Score 2
More than 3%	Score 3

### 1.2.2 - Volunteering

**Description:** How many hours per month, on average, do volunteers devote to volunteer work?

Less than 2 hours	Score 0
2 to 5 hours	Score 1
5.1 to 8 hours	Score 2
More than 8 hours.	Score 3

### 1.2.3 - CSO membership

**Description:** What percentage of CSO members belong to more than one CSO?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 65%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%)	Score 3

## 1.3 - Diversity of civil society participants

**Description:** How diverse/representative is the civil society arena? Do all social groups participate equitably in civil society? Are any groups dominant or excluded?

### 1.3.1 - CSO membership

**Description:** To what extent do CSOs represent all significant social groups (e.g. women, rural dwellers, poor people, and minorities)?

Significant social groups are absent / excluded from CSOs.	Score 0
Significant social groups are largely absent from CSOs	Score 1
Significant social groups are under-represented in CSOs.	Score 2
CSOs equitably represent all social groups. No group is noticeably under-represented.	Score 3

### 1.3.2 - CSO leadership

**Description:** To what extent is there diversity in CSO leadership? To what extent does CSO leadership represent all significant social groups (e.g. women, rural dwellers, poor people, and minorities)?

Significant social groups are absent / excluded from CSO leadership roles.	Score 0
Significant social groups are largely absent from CSO leadership roles.	Score 1
Significant social groups are under-represented in CSO leadership roles.	Score 2
CSO leadership equitably represents all social groups. No group is noticeably under-represented.	Score 3

### *1.3.3 Distribution of CSOs*

*Description:* How are CSOs distributed throughout the country?

CSOs are highly concentrated in the major urban centres.	Score 0
CSOs are largely concentrated in urban areas.	Score 1
CSOs are present in all but the most remote areas of the country.	Score 2
CSOs are present in all areas of the country.	Score 3

## **1.4. - Level of organisation**

***Description:* How well-organised is civil society? What kind of infrastructure exists for civil society?**

### *1.4.1 - Existence of CSO umbrella bodies*

*Description:* What percentage of CSOs belong to a federation or umbrella body of related organisations?

A small minority (less than 30%)	Score 0
A minority (30% to 50%)	Score 1
A majority (51% to 70%)	Score 2
A large majority (more than 70%)	Score 3

### *1.4.2 - Effectiveness of CSO umbrella bodies*

*Description:* How effective do CSO stakeholders judge existing federations or umbrella bodies to be in achieving their defined goals?

Completely ineffective (or non-existent).	Score 0
Largely ineffective.	Score 1
Somewhat effective.	Score 2
Effective.	Score 3

### *1.4.3 - Self-regulation*

*Description:* Are there efforts among CSOs to self-regulate? How effective and enforceable are existing self-regulatory mechanisms? What percentage of CSOs abide by a collective code of conduct (or some other form of self-regulation)?

There are no efforts among CSOs to self-regulate.	Score 0
Preliminary efforts have been to self-regulate but only a small minority of CSOs are involved and impact is extremely limited.	Score 1
Some mechanisms for CSO self-regulation are in place but only some sectors of CSOs are involved and there is no effective method of enforcement. As a result, impact is limited.	Score 2
Mechanisms for CSO self-regulation are in place and function quite effectively. A discernible impact on CSO behaviour can be detected.	Score 3

### *1.4.4 - Support infrastructure*

*Description:* What is the level of support infrastructure for civil society? How many civil society support organisations exist in the country? Are they effective?

There is no support infrastructure for civil society.	Score 0
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There is very limited infrastructure for civil society.	Score 1
Support infrastructure exists for some sectors of civil society and is expanding.	Score 2
There is a well-developed support infrastructure for civil society.	Score 3

#### 1.4.5 - International linkages

*Description:* What proportion of CSOs have international linkages (e.g. are members of international networks, participate in global events)?

Only a handful of “elite” CSOs have international linkages.	Score 0
A limited number of (mainly national-level) CSOs have international linkages.	Score 1
A moderate number of (mainly national-level) CSOs have international linkages.	Score 2
A significant number of CSOs from different sectors and different levels (grassroots to national) have international linkages.	Score 3

### 1.5 - Inter-relations

**Description:** How strong / productive are relations among civil society actors?

#### 1.5.1 - Communication<sup>32</sup>

*Description:* What is the extent of communication between CS actors?

Very little	Score 0
Limited	Score 1
Moderate	Score 2
Significant	Score 3

#### 1.5.2 – Cooperation

*Description:* How much do CS actors cooperate with each other on issues of common concern? Can examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances/coalitions (around a specific issue or common concern) be identified?

CS actors do not cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. No examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances/coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 0
It is very rare that CS actors cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Very few examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 1
CS actors on occasion cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Some examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 2
CS actors regularly cooperate with each other on issues of common concern. Numerous examples of cross-sectoral CSO alliances / coalitions can be identified / detected.	Score 3

### 1.6 – Resources

**Description:** To what extent do CSOs have adequate resources to achieve their goals?

#### 1.6.1 - Financial resources

*Description:* How adequate is the level of financial resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious financial resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate financial resources to achieve their goals.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the financial resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure financial resource base.	Score 3

<sup>32</sup> Communication also includes information sharing between civil society actors.

### 1.6.2 - Human resources

*Description:* How adequate is the level of human resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious human resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate human resources to achieve their goals.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the human resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure human resource base.	Score 3

### 1.6.3 - Technological and infrastructural resources

*Description:* How adequate is the level of technological and infrastructural resources for CSOs?

On average, CSOs suffer from a serious technological and infrastructural resource problem.	Score 0
On average, CSOs have inadequate technological and infrastructural resources to achieve their goals.	Score 1
On average, CSOs have most of the technological and infrastructural resources they require to achieve their defined goals.	Score 2
On average, CSOs have an adequate and secure technological and infrastructural resource base.	Score 3

## 2 - ENVIRONMENT<sup>33</sup>

### 2.1 - Political context

*Description:* What is the political situation in the country and its impact on civil society?

#### 2.1.1 - Political rights

*Description:* How strong are the restrictions on citizens' political rights (e.g. to participate freely in political processes, elect political leaders through free and fair elections, freely organise in political parties)?

There are severe restrictions on the political rights of citizens. Citizens cannot participate in political processes.	Score 0
There are some restrictions on the political rights of citizens and their participation in political processes.	Score 1
Citizens are endowed with substantial political rights and meaningful opportunities for political participation. There are minor and isolated restrictions on the full freedom of citizens' political rights and their participation in political processes.	Score 2
People have the full freedom and choice to exercise their political rights and meaningfully participate in political processes.	Score 3

#### 2.1.2 - Political competition

*Description:* What are the main characteristics of the party system in terms of number of parties, ideological spectrum, institutionalisation and party competition?

Single party system.	Score 0
Small number of parties based on personalism, clientelism or appealing to identity politics.	Score 1
Multiple parties, but weakly institutionalised and / or lacking ideological	Score 2

<sup>33</sup> For most of the indicators, secondary data sources are available for a broad range of countries. For each indicator, the scores indicate how to translate the original secondary data into the 4-point scale of the CSI scoring matrix.



distinction.	
Robust, multi-party competition with well-institutionalised and ideologically diverse parties.	Score 3

### 2.1.3 - Rule of law

*Description:* To what extent is the rule of law entrenched in the country?

There is general disregard for the law by citizens and the state.	Score 0
There is low confidence in and frequent violations of the law by citizens and the state.	Score 1
There is a moderate level of confidence in the law. Violations of the law by citizens and the state are not uncommon.	Score 2
Society is governed by fair and predictable rules, which are generally abided by.	Score 3

### 2.1.4 – Corruption

*Description:* What is the level of perceived corruption in the public sector?

High	Score 0
Substantial	Score 1
Moderate	Score 2
Low	Score 3

### 2.1.5 – State effectiveness

*Description:* To what extent is the state able to fulfil its defined functions?

The state bureaucracy has collapsed or is entirely ineffective (e.g. due to political, economic or social crisis).	Score 0
The capacity of the state bureaucracy is extremely limited.	Score 1
State bureaucracy is functional but perceived as incompetent and / or non-responsive.	Score 2
State bureaucracy is fully functional and perceived to work in the public's interests.	Score 3

### 2.1.6 – Decentralisation

*Description:* To what extent is government expenditure devolved to sub-national authorities?

Sub-national share of government expenditure is less than 20.0%.	Score 0
Sub-national share of government expenditure is between 20.0% and 34.9%.	Score 1
Sub-national share of government expenditure is between 35.0% than 49.9%.	Score 2
Sub-national share of government expenditure is more than 49.9%.	Score 3

## 2.2 - Basic freedoms & rights

*Description:* To what extent are basic freedoms ensured by law and in practice?

### 2.2.1 - Civil liberties

*Description:* To what extent are civil liberties (e.g. freedom of expression, association, assembly) ensured by law and in practice?

Civil liberties are systematically violated.	Score 0
There are frequent violations of civil liberties.	Score 1
There are isolated or occasional violations of civil liberties.	Score 2
Civil liberties are fully ensured by law and in practice.	Score 3

### 2.2.2 - Information rights

*Description:* To what extent is public access to information guaranteed by law? How accessible are government documents to the public?

No laws guarantee information rights. Citizen access to government documents is extremely limited.	Score 0
Citizen access to government documents is limited but expanding.	Score 1
Legislation regarding public access to information is in place, but in practice, it is difficult to obtain government documents.	Score 2
Government documents are broadly and easily accessible to the public.	Score 3

### 2.2.3 - Press freedoms

*Description:* To what extent are press freedoms ensured by law and in practice?

Press freedoms are systematically violated.	Score 0
There are frequent violations of press freedoms.	Score 1
There are isolated violations of press freedoms.	Score 2
Freedom of the press is fully ensured by law and in practice.	Score 3

## 2.3 - Socio-economic context<sup>34</sup>

*Description:* What is the socio-economic situation in the country and its impact on civil society?

### 2.3.1 - Socio-economic context

*Description:* How much do socio-economic conditions in the country represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society?

Social & economic conditions represent a serious barrier to the effective functioning of civil society. More than five of the following conditions are present: 1. Widespread poverty (e.g. more than 40% of people live on \$2 per day) 2. Civil war (armed conflict in last 5 years) 3. Severe ethnic and/or religious conflict 4. Severe economic crisis (e.g. external debt is more than GNP) 5. Severe social crisis (over last 2 years) 6. Severe socio-economic inequities (Gini coefficient > 0.4) 7. Pervasive adult illiteracy (over 40%) 8. Lack of IT infrastructure (i.e. less than 5 hosts per 10.000 inhabitants)	Score 0
Social & economic conditions significantly limit the effective functioning of civil society. Three, four or five of the conditions indicated are present.	Score 1
Social & economic conditions somewhat limit the effective functioning of civil society. One or two of the conditions indicated are present.	Score 2
Social & economic conditions do not represent a barrier to the effective functioning of civil society. None of the conditions indicated is present.	Score 3

## 2.4 - Socio-cultural context

*Description:* To what extent are socio-cultural norms and attitudes conducive or detrimental to civil society?

### 2.4.1 - Trust

*Description:* How much do members of society trust one another?

<sup>34</sup> This sub-dimension/indicator is not broken up into individual indicators to facilitate and simplify scoring. The sub-dimension/indicator consists of 8 socio-economic conditions which are of importance to civil society. The scores for this indicator are designed in such a way that they indicate how many socio-economic obstacles are there for civil society (max: 8; min: 0). The task for the NAG scoring meeting is to simply verify the number of obstacles (as identified by the secondary data) and assign the score accordingly.

Relationships among members of society are characterised by mistrust (e.g. less than 10% of people score on the World Value Survey (WVS) trust indicator).	Score 0
There is widespread mistrust among members of society. (e.g. 10% to 30% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	Score 1
There is a moderate level of trust among members of society. (e.g. 31% to 50% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	Score 2
There is a high level of trust among members of society (e.g. more than 50% of people score on the WVS trust indicator).	Score 3

#### 2.4.2 - Tolerance

*Description:* How tolerant are members of society?

Society is characterised by widespread intolerance (e.g. average score on WVS-derived tolerance indicator is 3.0 or higher).	Score 0
Society is characterised by a low level of tolerance (e.g. indicator between 2.0 and 2.9).	Score 1
Society is characterised by a moderate level of tolerance (e.g. indicator between 1.0 and 1.9).	Score 2
Society is characterised by a high level of tolerance (e.g. indicator less than 1.0).	Score 3

#### 2.4.3 - Public spiritedness<sup>35</sup>

*Description:* How strong is the sense of public spiritedness among members of society?

Very low level of public spiritedness in society (e.g. average score on WVS-derived public spiritedness indicator is more than 3.5)	Score 0
Low level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator between 2.6 and 3.5)	Score 1
Moderate level of public spiritedness (e.g. indicator between 1.5 and 2.5)	Score 2
High level of public spiritedness. (e.g. indicator less than 1.5)	Score 3

### 2.5 - Legal environment

*Description:* To what extent is the existing legal environment enabling or disabling to civil society?

#### 2.5.1 - CSO registration<sup>36</sup>

*Description:* How supportive is the CSO registration process? Is the process (1) simple, (2) quick, (3) inexpensive, (4) Following legal provisions (5) consistently applied?

The CSO registration process is not supportive at all. Four or five of the quality characteristics are absent.	Score 0
The CSO registration is not very supportive Two or three quality characteristics are absent.	Score 1
The CSO registration process can be judged as relatively supportive. One quality characteristic is absent.	Score 2
The CSO registration process is supportive. None of the quality characteristics is absent.	Score 3

<sup>35</sup> The score is derived by averaging the means for the three variables (1. claiming government benefits, 2. avoiding a fare on public transport, 3. cheating on taxes).

<sup>36</sup> This indicator combines a number of individual quality characteristics of the registration, namely whether the registration is (1) simple, (2) quick, (3) inexpensive, (4) fairly applied and (5) consistently applied. The process of using these five 'Yes/No'-variables for the scoring of the CSO registration indicator by the NAG follows the process outlined for sub-dimension 3. The indicator scores are defined by how many of these five quality characteristics are existent/absent.

### 2.5.2 - Allowable advocacy activities

*Description:* To what extent are CSOs free to engage in advocacy / criticize government?

CSOs are not allowed to engage in advocacy or criticise the government.	Score 0
There are excessive and / or vaguely defined constraints on advocacy activities.	Score 1
Constraints on CSOs' advocacy activities are minimal and clearly defined, such as prohibitions on political campaigning.	Score 2
CSOs are permitted to freely engage in advocacy and criticism of government.	Score 3

### 2.5.3 - Tax laws favourable to CSOs

*Description:* How favourable is the tax system to CSOs? How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that are eligible for tax exemptions, if any? How significant are these exemptions?

The tax system impedes CSOs. No tax exemption or preference of any kind is available for CSOs.	Score 0
The tax system is burdensome to CSOs. Tax exemptions or preferences are available only for a narrow range of CSOs (e.g. humanitarian organisations) or for limited sources of income (e.g., grants or donations).	Score 1
The tax system contains some incentives favouring CSOs. Only a narrow range of CSOs is excluded from tax exemptions or preferences and/or exemptions or preferences are available from some taxes and some activities.	Score 2
The tax system provides favourable treatment for CSOs. Exemptions or preferences are available from a range of taxes and for a range of activities, limited only in appropriate circumstances.	Score 3

### 2.5.3. Tax benefits for philanthropy

*Description:* How broadly available are tax deductions or credits, or other tax benefits, to encourage individual and corporate giving?

No tax benefits are available (to individuals or corporations) for charitable giving.	Score 0
Tax benefits are available for a very limited set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 1
Tax benefits are available for a fairly broad set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 2
Significant tax benefits are available for a broad set of purposes or types of organisations.	Score 3

## 2.6 - State-civil society relations

*Description:* What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the state?

### 2.6.1 – Autonomy

*Description:* To what extent can civil society exist and function independently of the state? To what extent are CSOs free to operate without excessive government interference? Is government oversight reasonably designed and limited to protect legitimate public interests?

The state controls civil society.	Score 0
CSOs are subject to frequent unwarranted interference in their operations.	Score 1
The state accepts the existence of an independent civil society but CSOs are subject to occasional unwarranted government interference.	Score 2
CSOs operate freely. They are subject only to reasonable oversight linked to clear and legitimate public interests.	Score 3

### 2.6.2 - Dialogue

*Description:* To what extent does the state dialogue with civil society? How inclusive and institutionalized are the terms and rules of engagement, if they exist?

There is no meaningful dialogue between civil society and the state.	Score 0
The state only seeks to dialogue with a small sub-set of CSOs on an ad hoc basis.	Score 1
The state dialogues with a relatively broad range of CSOs but on a largely ad hoc basis.	Score 2
Mechanisms are in place to facilitate systematic dialogue between the state and a broad and diverse range of CSOs.	Score 3

### 2.6.3 - Cooperation / support

*Description:* How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that receive state resources (in the form of grants, contracts, etc.)?

The level of state resources channelled through CSOs is insignificant.	Score 0
Only a very limited range of CSOs receives state resources.	Score 1
A moderate range of CSOs receives state resources.	Score 2
The state channels significant resources to a large range of CSOs.	Score 3

## 2.7 - Private sector-civil society relations

*Description:* What is the nature and quality of relations between civil society and the private sector?

### 2.7.1 - Private sector attitude

*Description:* What is the general attitude of the private sector towards civil society actors?

Generally hostile	Score 0
Generally indifferent	Score 1
Generally positive	Score 2
Generally supportive	Score 3

### 2.7.2 - Corporate social responsibility

*Description:* How developed are notions and actions of corporate social responsibility?

Major companies show no concern about the social and environmental impacts of their operations.	Score 0
Major companies pay lip service to notions of corporate social responsibility. However, in their operations they frequently disregard negative social and environmental impacts.	Score 1
Major companies are beginning to take the potential negative social and environmental impacts of their operations into account.	Score 2
Major companies take effective measures to protect against negative social and environmental impacts.	Score 3

### 2.7.3 - Corporate philanthropy<sup>37</sup>

*Description:* How narrow/broad is the range of CSOs that receive support from the private sector?

Corporate philanthropy is insignificant.	Score 0
Only a very limited range of CSOs receives funding from the private sector.	Score 1
A moderate range of CSOs receives funding from the private sector.	Score 2
The private sector channels resources to a large range of CSOs.	Score 3

<sup>37</sup> The NAG's task in scoring the indicator is to assess the significance of corporate support to civil society. Here, the score descriptions focus on two elements: (1) the overall size of corporate support to civil society, (2) the range of CSOs supported by the corporate sector. Please note that both elements are combined in the indicator score descriptions.

### 3 - VALUES

#### 3.1 – Democracy

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote democracy?**

##### 3.1.1 - Democratic practices within CSOs

**Description:** To what extent do CSOs practice internal democracy? How much control do members have over decision-making? Are leaders selected through democratic elections?

A large majority (i.e. more than 75%) of CSOs do not practice internal democracy (e.g. members have little / no control over decision-making, CSOs are characterised by patronage, nepotism).	Score 0
A majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 50%) do not practice internal democracy (e.g. members have little/no control over decision-making, CSOs are characterised by patronage, nepotism).	Score 1
A majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 50%) practice internal democracy (e.g. members have significant control over decision-making; leaders are selected through democratic elections).	Score 2
A large majority of CSOs (i.e. more than 75%) practice internal democracy (e.g. members have significant control over decision-making; leaders are selected through democratic elections).	Score 3

##### 3.1.2 - CS actions to promote democracy

**Description:** How much does CS actively promote democracy at a societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a democratic society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

#### 3.2 – Transparency

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote transparency?**

##### 3.2.1 - Corruption within civil society

**Description:** How widespread is corruption within CS?

Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are very frequent.	Score 0
Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are frequent.	Score 1
There are occasional instances of corrupt behaviour within CS.	Score 2
Instances of corrupt behaviour within CS are very rare.	Score 3

##### 3.2.2 - Financial transparency of CSOs

**Description:** How many CSOs are financially transparent? What percentage of CSOs make their financial accounts publicly available?

A small minority of CSOs (less than 30%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 0
A minority of CSOs (30% -50%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 1
A small majority of CSOs (51% -65%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 2
A large majority of CSOs (more than 65%) make their financial accounts publicly available.	Score 3

### 3.2.3 - CS actions to promote transparency

*Description:* How much does CS actively promote government and corporate transparency?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and/or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in demanding government and corporate transparency. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

## 3.3 – Tolerance

*Description:* To what extent do civil society actors and organisations practice and promote tolerance?

### 3.3.1 Tolerance within the CS arena

*Description:* To what extent is CS a tolerant arena?

CS is dominated by intolerant forces. The expression of only a narrow sub-set of views is tolerated.	Score 0
Significant forces within civil society do not tolerate others' views without encountering protest from civil society at large.	Score 1
There are some intolerant forces within civil society, but they are isolated from civil society at large.	Score 2
Civil society is an open arena where the expression of <i>all</i> viewpoints is actively encouraged. Intolerant behaviour are strongly denounced by civil society at large.	Score 3

### 3.3.2 - CS actions to promote tolerance

*Description:* How much does CS actively promote tolerance at a societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and/or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a tolerant society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

## 3.4 - Non-violence

*Description:* To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote non-violence?

### 3.4.1 - Non-violence within the CS arena

*Description:* How widespread is the use of violent means (such as damage to property or personal violence) among CS actors to express their interests in the public sphere?

Significant mass-based groups within CS use violence as the primary means of expressing their interests.	Score 0
Some isolated groups within CS regularly use violence to express their interests without encountering protest from civil society at large.	Score 1
Some isolated groups within CS occasionally resort to violent actions, but are broadly denounced by CS at large.	Score 2
There is a high level of consensus within CS regarding the principle of non-violence. Acts of violence by CS actors are extremely rare and strongly denounced.	Score 3

### 3.4.2 - CS actions to promote non-violence and peace

**Description:** How much does CS actively promote a non-violent society? For example, how much does civil society support the non-violent resolution of social conflicts and peace? Address issues of violence against women, child abuse, violence among youths etc.?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions actually contribute to societal violence.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a non-violent society. CS actions in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility	Score 3

## 3.5 - Gender equity

**Description:** To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote gender equity?

### 3.5.1 - Gender equity within the CS arena

**Description:** To what extent is civil society a gender equitable arena?

Women are excluded from civil society leadership roles.	Score 0
Women are largely absent from civil society leadership roles.	Score 1
Women are under-represented in civil society leadership positions.	Score 2
Women are equitably represented as leaders and members of CS.	Score 3

### 3.5.2 - Gender equitable practices within CSOs

**Description:** How much do CSOs practice gender equity? What percentage of CSOs with paid employees have policies in place to ensure gender equity?

A small minority (less than 20%).	Score 0
A minority (20%-50%).	Score 1
A small majority (51% - 65%).	Score 2
A large majority (more than 65%).	Score 3

### 3.5.3 - CS actions to promote gender equity

**Description:** How much does CS actively promote gender equity at the societal level?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions actually contribute to gender inequity.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in promoting a gender equitable society. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

## 3.6 - Poverty eradication

**Description:** To what extent do civil society actors promote poverty eradication?

### 3.6.1 - CS actions to eradicate poverty

**Description:** To what extent does CS actively seek to eradicate poverty?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions serve to sustain existing economic inequities.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and	Score 1



these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in the struggle to eradicate poverty. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

### 3.7 - Environmental sustainability

**Description: To what extent do civil society actors practice and promote environmental sustainability?**

#### 3.7.1 - CS actions to sustain the environment

**Description:** How much does CS actively seek to sustain the environment?

No active role. No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected. Some CS actions serve to reinforce unsustainable practices.	Score 0
Only a few CS activities in this area can be detected. Their visibility is low and these issues are not attributed much importance by CS as a whole.	Score 1
A number of CS activities in this area can be detected. Broad-based support and / or public visibility of such initiatives, however, are lacking.	Score 2
CS is a driving force in protecting the environment. CS activities in this area enjoy broad-based support and / or strong public visibility.	Score 3

## 4 - IMPACT

### 4.1 - Influencing public policy<sup>38</sup>

**Description: How active and successful is civil society in influencing public policy?**

#### 4.1.1 – 4.1.2 - Human Rights & Social Policy Impact Case Studies

**Description:** How active and successful is civil society in influencing public policy?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.1.3 - Civil Society's Impact on National Budgeting process Case Study

**Description:** How active and successful is civil society in influencing the overall national budgeting process?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and focused only on specific budget components <sup>39</sup> .	Score 1
Civil society is active in the overall budgeting process, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role in the overall budgeting process. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

### 4.2 - Holding state & private corporations accountable

<sup>38</sup> For a detailed description on the data sources and analysis of this sub-dimension, please refer to Section 3 of Part D.3 of the toolkit.

<sup>39</sup> The term “specific budget component” refers to a single issue or sub-section of the budget, such as the defence budget or welfare grants. Higher scores are assigned for those civil society activities, which provide an analysis, input and advocacy work on the *overall* budget.

**Description: How active and successful is civil society in holding the state and private corporations accountable?**

**4.2.1 - Holding state accountable**

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in monitoring state performance and holding the state accountable?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

**4.2.2 - Holding private corporations accountable**

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in holding private corporations accountable?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

**4.3 - Responding to social interests**

**Description: How much are civil society actors responding to social interests?**

**4.3.1 - Responsiveness**

*Description:* How effectively do civil society actors respond to priority social concerns?

Civil society actors are out of touch with the crucial concerns of the population.	Score 0
There are frequent examples of crucial social concerns that did not find a voice among existing civil society actors.	Score 1
There are isolated examples of crucial social concerns that did not find a voice among existing civil society actors.	Score 2
Civil society actors are very effective in taking up the crucial concerns of the population.	Score 3

**4.3.2 - Public Trust**

*Description:* What percentage of the population has trust in civil society actors?

A small minority (< 25%).	Score 0
A large minority (25% - 50%).	Score 1
A small majority (51% – 75%).	Score 2
A large majority (> 75%).	Score 3

**4.4 - Empowering citizens**

**Description: How active and successful is civil society in empowering citizens, especially traditionally marginalised groups, to shape decisions that affect their lives?**

**4.4.1 - Informing/ educating citizens**

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in informing and educating citizens on public issues?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1

Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.4.2 - Building capacity for collective action

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in building the capacity of people to organise themselves, mobilise resources and work together to solve common problems?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.4.3 - Empowering marginalised people

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in empowering marginalised people?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.4.4 - Empowering women

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in empowering women, i.e. to give them real choice and control over their lives?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.4.5 - Building social capital<sup>40</sup>

*Description:* To what extent does civil society build social capital among its members? How do levels of trust, tolerance and public spiritedness of members of CS compare to those of non-members?

Civil society diminishes the stock of social capital in society.	Score 0
Civil society does not contribute to building social capital in society.	Score 1
Civil society does contribute moderately to building social capital in society.	Score 2
Civil Society does contribute strongly to building social capital in society.	Score 3

<sup>40</sup> To score this indicator, we make use of the three measures of trust, tolerance and public spiritedness (see sub-dimension socio-cultural norms in ENVIRONMENT dimension).

1) Compute the three measures for two sub-groups of the population: (1) CSO members and (2) non-CSO members.

2) Compare each measure's score for the two sub-groups and establish which sub-group has the better score (i.e. indicating higher trust, tolerance and public spiritedness). If the score for CSO members is better than for non-CSO members, it indicates that civil society is contributing to the production of civil society. If the score is worse, it indicates that the involvement in CSOs is making it more unlikely for citizens to generate norms of social capital.

3) Please note that for some of the three indicators, civil society might add to, for others, it might diminish social capital. For the scoring of the indicator the overall picture is important.

#### 4.4.6 - Supporting livelihoods

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in creating / supporting employment and/or income-generating opportunities (especially for poor people and women)?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

#### 4.5 - Meeting societal needs

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in meeting societal needs, especially those of poor people and other marginalised groups?

##### 4.5.1 - Lobbying for state service provision

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in lobbying the government to meet pressing societal needs?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

##### 4.5.2 - Meeting pressing societal needs directly

*Description:* How active and successful is civil society in directly meeting pressing societal needs (through service delivery or the promotion of self-help initiatives)?

No CS activity of any consequence in this area can be detected.	Score 0
CS activity in this area is very limited and there is no discernible impact.	Score 1
Civil society is active in this area, but impact is limited.	Score 2
Civil society plays an important role. Examples of significant success / impact can be detected.	Score 3

##### 4.5.3 - Meeting needs of marginalised groups

*Description:* To what extent are CSOs more or less effective than the state in delivering services to marginalised groups?

CSOs are less effective than the state.	Score 0
CSOs are as effective as the state.	Score 1
CSOs are slightly more effective than the state.	Score 2
CSOs are significantly more effective than the state.	Score 3

## **APPENDIX 4: ACTION PLANS DRAWN AT THE NATIONAL WORKSHOP**

### **The S-W-O-T Analysis for Structure Dimension**

#### **Breadth of citizens' participation**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to CSO by membership</li> <li>• High level of participation in CSO activities</li> <li>• Sense of ownership</li> <li>• Sustainability due to sense of ownership</li> <li>• High level mobilization capability</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicion</li> <li>• Division among the ranks of CSO actors</li> <li>• Conflicting interests</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enormous goodwill from the public and international community</li> <li>• Freedom of expression as entrenched in the constitution</li> <li>• Freedom of association as entrenched in the constitution</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspicion on the part of the government</li> <li>• Lack of trust</li> <li>• Low funding</li> <li>• High poverty level</li> <li>• Bad governance</li> <li>• Illiteracy</li> <li>• Political and religious crisis</li> </ul>

#### **Depth of citizens' participation**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People have created giving culture</li> <li>• Fund raising ability</li> <li>• Strong associational life of the people</li> <li>• High sense of belonging</li> <li>• Community self help/ volunteering entrenched in our communal life</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunism</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking</li> <li>• Strong social structure</li> <li>• Partnership</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized CSOs are found in the urban centres</li> <li>• Intolerance of class perpetrators</li> <li>• Lack of awareness of benefits</li> </ul>

#### **Diversity of civil society participation**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair representation of women in CSOs</li> <li>• Diversity of cultures and religions in</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under representation of the poor and indigent people in the CSOs especially in</li> </ul>
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the CSOs	the leadership cadre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social mobility</li> </ul>	
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment programmes especially for women and the marginalised</li> <li>• Social networking</li> <li>• Equal opportunity to belong to CSO</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrimination</li> <li>• Elitism</li> <li>• Rural/ Urban</li> <li>• Differentiation</li> </ul>

### Level of organisation

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few alliances and networks already on ground</li> <li>• Cost saving</li> <li>• Collective bargaining</li> <li>• Goodwill</li> <li>• Access to information</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal crisis</li> <li>• Duplications</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure (especially IT)</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self regulation</li> <li>• Access to IDP funding</li> <li>• Availability of external technical support</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fear of loss of identity in the coalitions and networks</li> <li>• Donor driven agenda</li> </ul>

### Inter-relations

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to available information</li> <li>• Cooperation</li> <li>• Collaboration with private organisations, internal organisations, etc.</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hoarding of information by some skeptical CSO actors</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of information technology</li> </ul>	<b>Threat</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal agenda</li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Poor leadership</li> </ul>

### Resources

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skilled human resources within the civil society</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal crisis</li> <li>• Poor management</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of accountability</li> <li>• Lack of adequate skill by CSO actors</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared best practices</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donor driven agenda</li> <li>• Corruption</li> <li>• Inadequate equipments competition with international NGOs</li> </ul>

### Priority Actions Identified for Structure Dimension

S/No	Goal	Strategic Options	Constraints	Solutions	Feasibility rating	Key Actors	Rank
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document and exchange best practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary</li> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Develop a tool kit</li> <li>• Regular meetings</li> <li>• Build network</li> <li>• Information resource centre</li> <li>• Peer review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Technical ability</li> <li>• Acceptability</li> <li>• Commitment to practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for funds to develop the tool kit</li> <li>• Hire consultant to do the documentary</li> <li>• Partner with the media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO networks</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Consultants</li> <li>• Donor organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a national NGO code of conduct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitization of NGOs</li> <li>• Enlightenment campaign</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Hire consultant to do a draft</li> <li>• National/ zonal conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund</li> <li>• Time</li> <li>• commitment</li> <li>• Acceptance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enlightenment</li> <li>• Mobilize internal resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of diversity policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Drafting bills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureaucracy and legislative delays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign</li> <li>• Lobbying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs</li> <li>• Legislators</li> <li>• NGOs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

						•	
4	• Equal opportunity policy	• Same as above	• Same as above	• Same as above	• S ane as above	• Sa me as above	•
5	• NGO funds	• Advoc acy to government • Devel oping bills	•	•	•	•	•



## **APPENDIX 5: The S-W-O-T Analysis for Environment Dimension**

### **External environment**

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitutional provisions of political rights and civil rights</li> <li>• Multi-party system lead to increase in political participation</li> <li>• The existence of law courts</li> <li>• The passing of freedom of information bill</li> <li>• The existing structural norms that guide the operations of CSOs</li> <li>• Legal recognition of CSOs registrations</li> <li>• The involvement of CSOs in development process is being increased</li> <li>• Increased awareness of private sector in corporate social responsibility</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of citizens exercising their rights</li> <li>• The inability of political parties to implement their political manifestos to the benefit of the people</li> <li>• There is limited power for the opposition in politic</li> <li>• Lack of proper political education to the electorates</li> <li>• Inadequate transparency and accountability on the side of public servants</li> <li>• Poor representation of peoples' mandate</li> <li>• High level of illiteracy</li> <li>• Collapse of social and economic infrastructures</li> <li>• Tedious conditions of registration of CSOs in the state</li> <li>• CSO autonomy is weaken by the undue influence of donor agenda</li> <li>• Although CSO engage with government on development issues, they are not given the enabling environment create the much needed impact</li> <li>• The inability of CSOs to maximally exploit the opportunities given by the private sector in the community development department</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of the electorate in political activities</li> <li>• Alliance of political parties for stronger opposition</li> <li>• The return to democracy as against civil rule</li> <li>• Existence of anti-corruption bodies e.g. EFCC</li> <li>• Debt relief negotiated with the Paris club</li> <li>• Corporate affairs commission registration enhance collaboration with development partners</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undue monetization of the electoral process</li> <li>• Lack of respect for the rule of the political game</li> <li>• The undue interference of the electoral by the government</li> <li>• Discriminatory sentences of women in our law courts in judgment</li> <li>• Ineffectiveness of the anti-corruption bodies to carry out their mandates</li> <li>• Ineffective implementation of government policies by state e.g. pro-poor policies</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax exemption for CSOs</li> <li>• Existence of community development/relations department, private sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-existence of true federalism</li> <li>• Government interference with CSO activities</li> <li>• HIV/AIDS as threat to human development</li> <li>• Lack of trust amongst citizens</li> <li>• Religious fanaticism and stigmatization in relation to tolerance among the people</li> </ul>
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<b>Action Plan for Environment Dimension</b>						
<b>Goal</b>	<b>Strategic Option</b>	<b>Constraints</b>	<b>Solutions</b>	<b>Feasibility Rating</b>	<b>Key Actors</b>	<b>Rank</b>
To educate the citizens towards participating in program of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Awareness creation/sensitization</li> </ul>	Finance	Sourcing for funds from donor agencies, government, private sectors and spirited individuals	Low	CSOs, Media, and donor agencies	1
To address the weaknesses in the policy of the state	Involving legislative process in order to address the implementation of policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaccessibility to policy makers</li> <li>• CSOs mobilization skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbying and advocacy</li> <li>• Net working and coalition</li> </ul>	High	CSOs, Legislatures, Media, Donor agencies	3
To create a pro-people constitution that effectively will address rights of citizens, gender, poverty and values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize seminars</li> <li>• Lobbying and initiation of bills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial</li> <li>• Technical capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund raising</li> <li>• Engage consultants and experts</li> </ul>	Low	CSOs, Development partners, Legislatures, Private sector, donor agencies	4

### The S-W-O-T Analysis for Value Dimension

#### Democracy

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It create harmony in the society</li> <li>- It create participation i.e. more people are represented</li> <li>- Rule of Law.</li> <li>- Strong society is fostered as enabling environment is created for growth.</li> <li>- Good management of resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It does not usually throw up the best, especially when it is not practice in the right manner.</li> <li>- Proliferation of CSO</li> <li>- Low quality leadership, as every person can aspire to leadership position</li> <li>- Opportunism</li> <li>- Bureaucracy.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It makes for progress for individual and nation. i.e. sustainability.</li> <li>- Create professionalism</li> <li>- Peaceful co – existence</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor leadership.</li> <li>- Corruption.</li> <li>- Unhealthy competition.</li> <li>- Low capacity.</li> <li>- Poverty.</li> <li>- Lack of vision.</li> </ul>

### Transparency

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trust</li> <li>- Commitment</li> <li>- Respect for the rule of law</li> <li>- Accountability</li> <li>- Equal Opportunities</li> <li>- Due process</li> <li>- Access to information</li> <li>- Open society</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bureaucracy</li> <li>- Open to abuse</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good governance</li> <li>- Prudence</li> <li>- Cost saving</li> <li>- Wealth creation</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selective application of rules/double standard</li> <li>- Abuse of process</li> <li>- Blackmail</li> </ul>

**Tolerance**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peace</li> <li>- Mutual respect</li> <li>- Enhance development</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunism (people take advantage)</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperation</li> <li>- Encourage participation</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exploitation</li> <li>- Ethnicity</li> </ul>

**Sub-dimension: Non-violence**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mutual respect</li> <li>- Literacy</li> <li>- Peace</li> <li>- Rule of law</li> <li>- Popular participation</li> <li>- Restraint</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Illiteracy</li> <li>- Poverty</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fair play</li> <li>- Development</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Disrespect to law and order</li> <li>- Corruption</li> </ul>

**Gender Equity**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equal Opportunities</li> <li>- Education</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stigmatization</li> <li>- Capacity to perform</li> <li>- Family structure</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poverty Alleviation</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Socio-culture practices</li> <li>- Religious mal-practices</li> <li>- Women</li> <li>- Sexism</li> </ul>

**Poverty Eradication**

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good governance</li> <li>- Job creation</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ignorance</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved living standard</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Illiteracy</li> <li>- corruption</li> </ul>

Prioritized Action Plan for Value Dimension							
S/N	GOAL	STRATEGIC OPTION	CONSTRAINTS	SOLUTION	FEASIBILITY RATING	KEY/ACTOR	RANKIN
1.	To Strengthen Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase capacity</li> <li>• Gender main streaming</li> <li>• Networking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund</li> <li>• Social bias</li> <li>• Low capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sourcing for fund from donor &amp; international org.</li> <li>• Awareness</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>	Low High Low	Govt/CSOs Network Govt/CSOs media Org. local & international CSOs networking corporate org	2
2.	To Strengthen Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy for enabling law</li> <li>• Public recognition</li> <li>• Sanction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bureaucracy</li> <li>• funds</li> <li>• weak legal system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure group</li> <li>• Adequate budget allocation</li> <li>• Review of legal process</li> </ul>	High Low High	CSOs networking international org Govt/CSOs Legislator Pressure group	2
3.	To Strengthen Tolerance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage interrelation activities</li> <li>• Increase awareness on tolerance</li> <li>• Create a level playing ground</li> <li>• Engaged faith based organisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language barrier</li> <li>• Logistic</li> <li>• Lack of policy implementation</li> <li>• Religious interpretation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social integration</li> <li>• Souring of fund</li> <li>• Public protest</li> <li>• Promotion of inter faith relation</li> </ul>	High Low High Low	Govt/CSOs Media org corporate org CSOs Pressure group CSOs/Govt Religious leader	2

4.	To Strengthen Non-violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement of law and order</li> <li>• Advocacy for good governance</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Poverty alleviation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption campaign</li> <li>• Poor leadership quality</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• unemployment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-corruption campaign</li> <li>• Leadership training</li> <li>• Sourcing of fund</li> <li>• Job creation</li> </ul>	High Low Low Low	Govt/CSOs Govt/CSOs Govt/CSOs Corporate organisation Govt/CSOs	
5.	To Strengthen Gender Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public relation campaign</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Domestication gender law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• ignorance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source for fund</li> <li>• Source for fund</li> <li>• Awareness</li> <li>• Creation through seminars &amp; training</li> </ul>	Low High Low	Govt/CSOs  Media, Govt  Govt, CSOs	
6.	To Strengthen Poverty Eradication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Networking</li> <li>• Micro-credit</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of resources</li> <li>• Lack of fund</li> <li>• Low accessibility to gout agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source for fund</li> <li>• Source for fund</li> <li>• Training capacity building</li> </ul>	High High High	CSOs CSOs, Donor agencies/org CSOs/Govt	
7.	To Strengthen Environmental Protective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public relation campaign</li> <li>• Use of the media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Lack of interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source for fund</li> <li>• Media round table</li> </ul>	High High	CSOs, Donor agencies/org /Govt CSOs	

### S-W-O-T Analysis of Impact Dimension

#### Influencing Public Policy

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestication of human rights conventions</li> <li>• CSOs rendering free legal services</li> <li>• Establishment and Strengthening of relevant government institutions</li> <li>• Emergence of CSOs and Government agencies on poverty alleviation</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selective application of domesticated human rights conventions</li> <li>• Low levels of awareness resulting from illiteracy</li> <li>• Inadequate funding and limited capacity for the work</li> <li>• Limited levels of impact, funding and</li> </ul>
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	capacity
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advent of democratic government and its attendant benefits</li> <li>• Rising levels of awareness among the citizens resulting from CSO activities</li> <li>• Awareness created by government agencies through the media</li> <li>• A deepened understanding of poverty and its causes/effects</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discontinuity in democracy</li> <li>• Traditions and norms that infringe on human rights</li> <li>• Insincerity on the part of government</li> <li>• Globalization and adoption of neo-liberal policies.</li> <li>• Corruption</li> </ul>

### Holding State and Private Corporations Accountable

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability of CSOs to critically engage the government on issues</li> <li>• Ability to analyse issues</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to enforce decisions/policies agreed upon</li> <li>• Unfavourable/weak economic policies</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic governance</li> <li>• Increased awareness levels by government</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hostile environment</li> <li>• Corruption, Government policies</li> </ul>

### Responding to Social Interests

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear understanding of the issues by CS</li> <li>• Ability to engage with community members and government at their different levels</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of funding and high turn-over of staff.</li> <li>• Inability of civil society to generate its own data</li> <li>• Could easily be abused by CS members and lead to over dependence on CS by the community</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of development partners</li> <li>• Acceptance of CS by key stakeholders</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Existence of bad eggs that could erode the trust through sharp practices</li> </ul>

### Empowering Citizens

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of capacity and skills in empowerment</li> <li>• Increasing awareness on human rights</li> <li>• A fair understanding of gender issues</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate working materials</li> <li>• Lack of skills in and stamina required for advocacy</li> <li>• The misconception of gender by the public</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducive external environment</li> <li>• Availability of relevant CSOs to form</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shift in donor focus</li> <li>• Government hostility resulting in</li> </ul>

coalitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International and local instruments calling for gender equality</li> </ul>	imprisonment, intimidation and harassment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriarchy</li> </ul>
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### Meeting Societal Needs

<b>Strengths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zeal on the part of CS on engaging government</li> <li>• Creativity of CSOs in promoting alternative means for meeting demands</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate skills for proper engagement</li> <li>• Lack of proper follow up by CSOs</li> <li>• Poor implementation of the alternative means</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global trends and the creation of an enabling environment for engagement</li> <li>• Availability of developmental partners to provide support</li> </ul>	<b>Threats</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflicting interests</li> <li>• Sustainability of the intervention</li> </ul>

Goal	Priority Action	Constraints	Solutions	Feasibility Rating	Key Actors	Rank
Influence public policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical engagement with the on-going electoral process to ensure sustained democracy</li> <li>• Sensitization and education of the public on human rights violations</li> <li>• Roundtable discussions with relevant government institutions</li> <li>• Strengthen existing coalitions to critically engage government on policies adopted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time</li> <li>• Funds</li> <li>• Violence</li> <li>• Rigging</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely release of action plans developed</li> <li>• Timely sourcing for funds</li> <li>• Training and awareness creation on the use of non-violent approaches to electoral conflicts</li> <li>• Mandate protection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• Low</li> <li>• High</li> <li>• Low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAIN, DevNet</li> <li>• CSOs and Coalitions</li> <li>• CSOs</li> <li>• Electorate/political parties and CSOs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2</li> </ul>
Hold state and private corporations accountable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage accountability, transparency and good governance</li> <li>• Work with government to Strengthen weak existing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to information</li> <li>• Secrecy around government documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of FOI bill</li> <li>• Build relationships with relevant government authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• Low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs and government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5</li> </ul>



	economic policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and tracking of government and private corporations activities</li> </ul>					
Respond to social interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote relevance of CSOs in the society</li> <li>• Encourage formation of coalitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Conflict of interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sourcing for funds</li> <li>• Involving the community in prioritizing interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs, funding agencies</li> <li>• Community members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3</li> </ul>
Empower citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing relevant and necessary information</li> <li>• Organize and work with women and marginalised groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to information</li> <li>• Lack of IEC materials for training</li> <li>• Conducive working environment</li> <li>• Suspicion by spouses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct research</li> <li>• Source / produce IEC materials</li> <li>• Allay suspicion by providing information and building trust</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs, developmental partners and religious/community leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1</li> </ul>
Meet societal needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct advocacy with community members to key stakeholders</li> <li>• Provide immediate needs in times of crisis</li> <li>• Engage with marginalised groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of adequate advocacy skill</li> <li>• Difficulty in accessing key stakeholders</li> <li>• Diversified interests</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Creating awareness on the problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More training for CS members on advocacy skills</li> <li>• Developing a relationship with key stakeholders</li> <li>• Source funding</li> <li>• Work with media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSOs, developmental partners, government officials/key stakeholders, media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4</li> </ul>

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